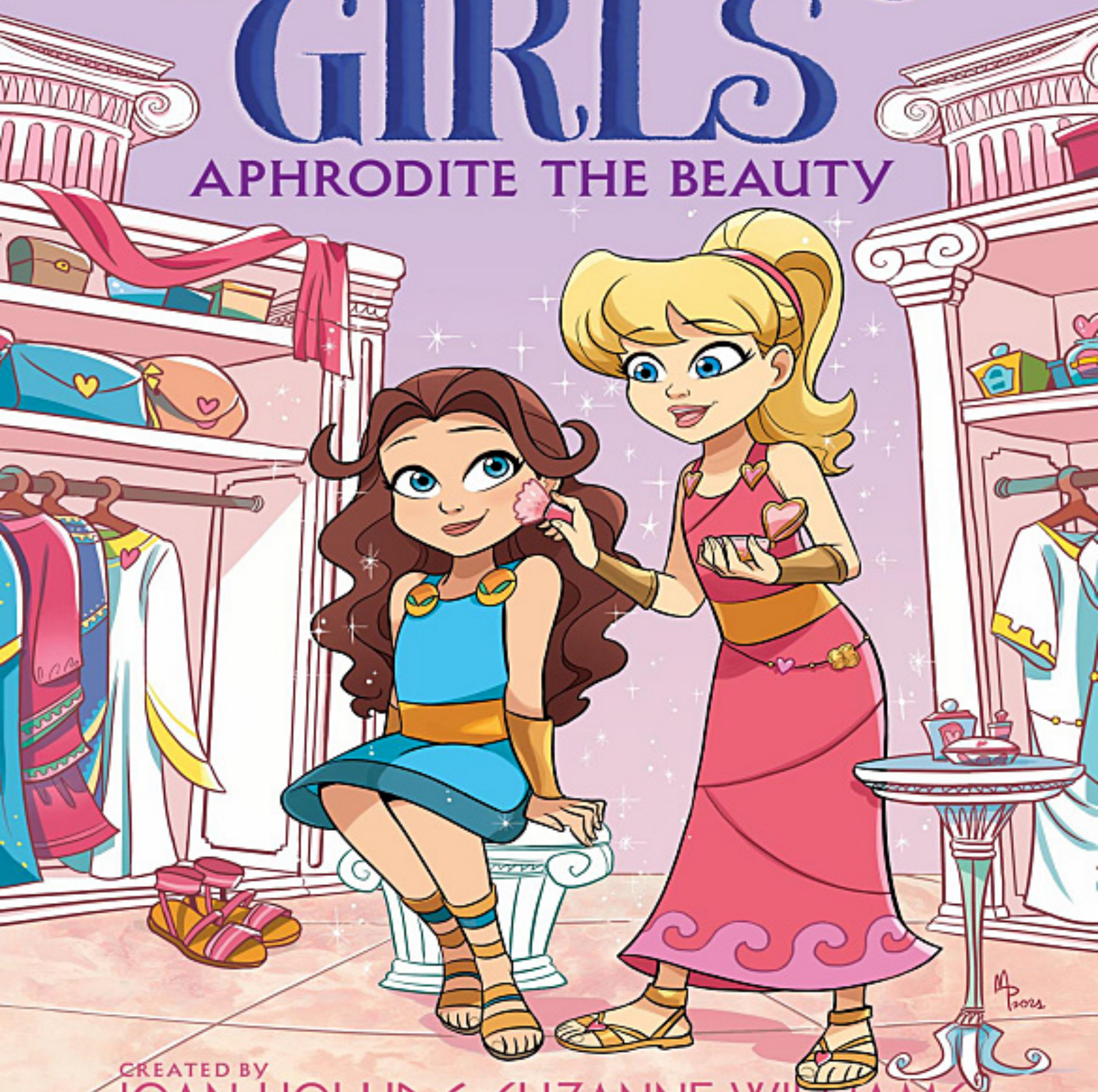


GRAPHIC
NOVEL

GODDESS GIRLS

APHRODITE THE BEAUTY



CREATED BY
JOAN HOLUB & SUZANNE WILLIAMS
ADAPTED BY DAVID CAMPITI

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ILLUSTRATED BY EDUARDO GARCIA
AT GLASS HOUSE GRAPHICS

Aladdin

New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi

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PROLOGUE:
FORGIVE, NOT FORGET

MEDUSA!

WHAT DO
YOU HAVE TO SAY
FOR YOURSELF?

I'M HERE TO
APOLOGIZE FOR MY
ACTIONS, PRINCIPAL
ZEUS.

IT'S *WRONG*
FOR ME TO TURN
HUMANS INTO *STONE*
FOR ANY REASON...

...AND FOR ME TO
TURN *PANDORA*, ANOTHER
OF YOUR CHOSEN HUMANS HERE
AT MOUNT OLYMPUS ACADEMY,
INTO *STONE* UNDER YOUR WATCH
IS *UNFORGIVABLE!*

EVEN IF SHE IS
TOO *NOSY* FOR HER
OWN GOOD!





YOUNG
LADY!

YOU HAVE
BEEN **CONFINED**
TO YOUR DORM ROOM FOR
WEEKS AS PUNISHMENT
FOR TURNING **PANDORA**
INTO STONE.

I SHALL DECIDE
TODAY WHETHER TO
RELEASE YOU OR **KEEP**
YOU CONFINED FOR THE
REMAINDER OF THE
SEMESTER.



I'M
SORRY FOR
THREATENING
HUMANS AND
OLYMPIANS...



...I'LL
NEVER DO IT
AGAIN...



...AND
I'M REALLY,
REALLY SORRY
FOR MY SNAKE
HAIR BITING
YOU.

HMM...

VERY WELL, MEDUSA. I'LL PLACE YOU ON PROBATION AND LET YOU RETURN TO CLASSES.

OUR HERALD, VARANUS, WILL CHAPERONE YOU BETWEEN CLASSES...

WHY THANK YOU, PRINCIPAL ZEUS!

SIGH! I WILL...?

...UNTIL I DECREE A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION.

"PERMA—"

PRINCIPAL ZEUS...

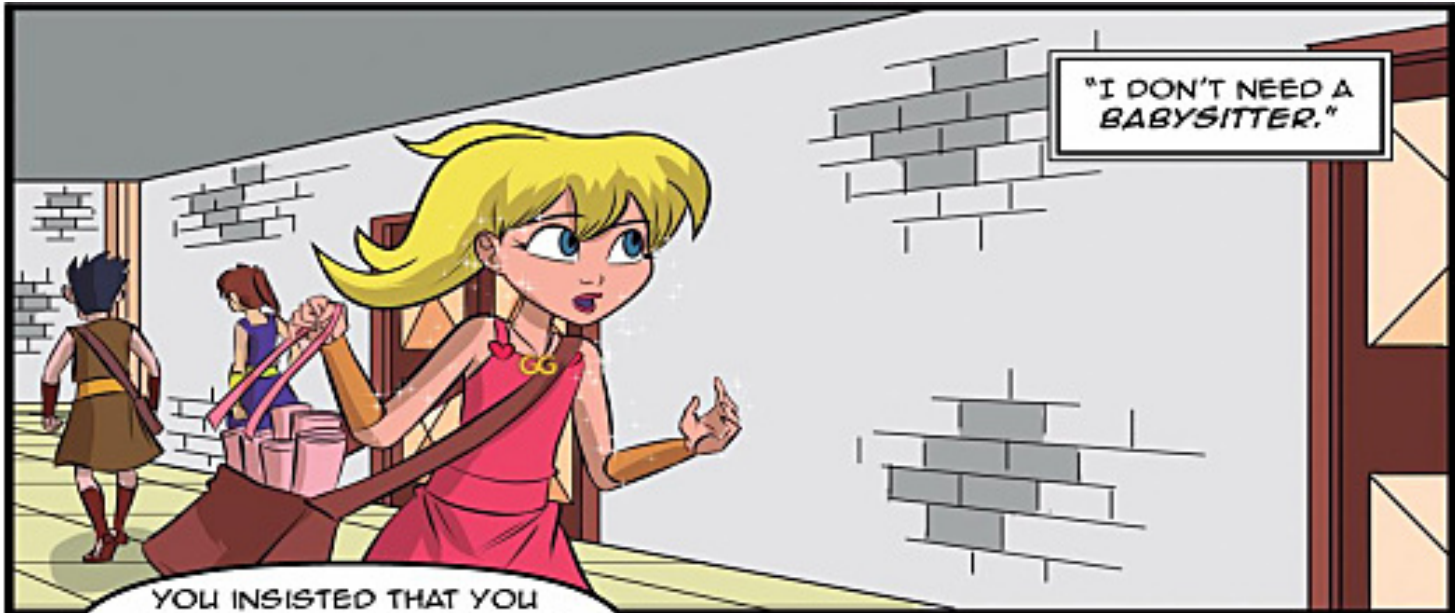
...IS ALL THAT REALLY NECESSARY? I—

WILL DO EXACTLY AS YOU ARE TOLD, BY YOUR KING...

...YOUR RULER...

...YOUR PRINCIPAL!



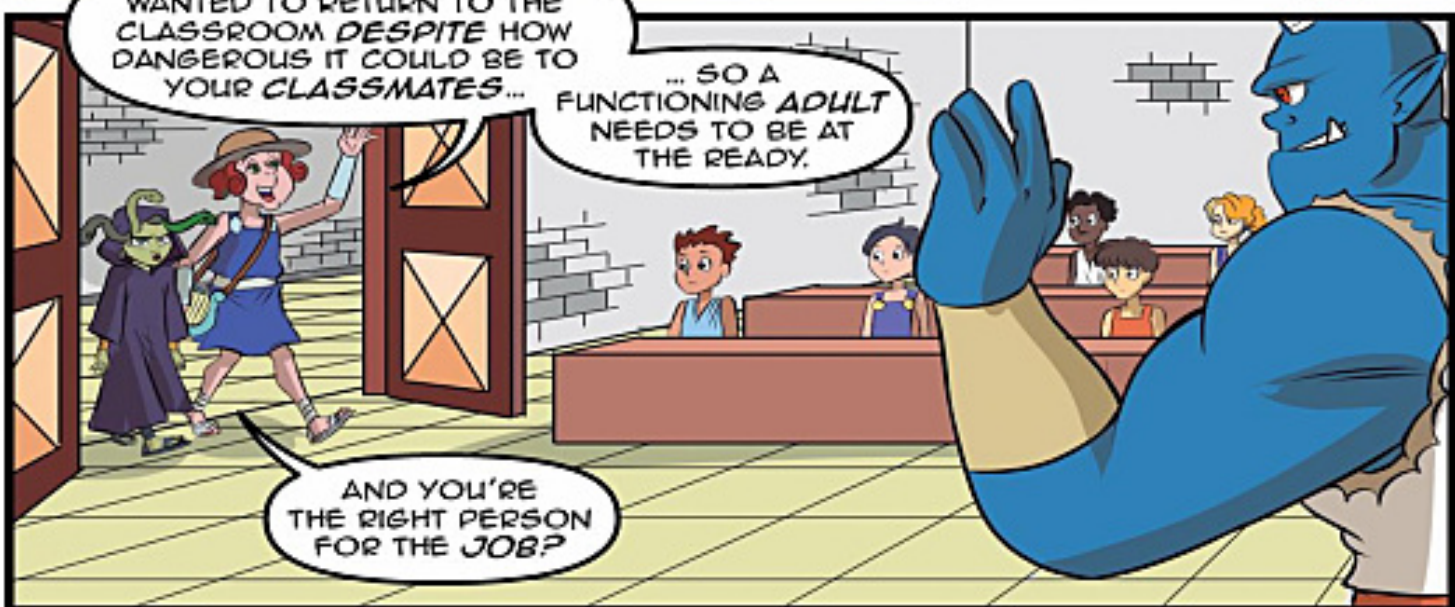


"I DON'T NEED A BABYSITTER."

YOU INSISTED THAT YOU WANTED TO RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM *DESPITE* HOW DANGEROUS IT COULD BE TO YOUR CLASSMATES...

... SO A FUNCTIONING ADULT NEEDS TO BE AT THE READY.

AND YOU'RE THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB?



"PRINCIPAL ZEUS THINKS SO, MEDUSA—AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT."

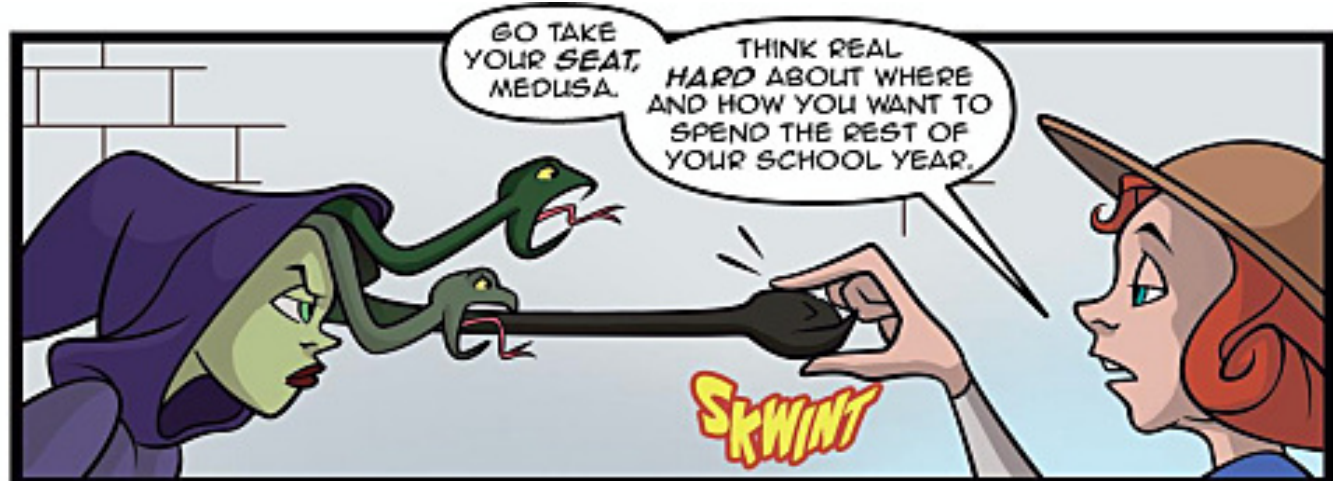


LET'S AGREE TO DISAGREE!

I CAN CONTROL MY POWERS AND MY TEMPER!

LIKE NOW?





"...BECAUSE YOUR ACTIONS WILL MAKE THOSE DECISIONS FOR YOU."



CHAPTER ONE:
BOY TROUBLE

ALL MY LIFE,
GODBOYS HAVE FOUND
ME TO BE ENCHANTINGLY
BEAUTIFUL.

NICE OF
YOU TO JOIN US,
APHRODITE.

THOUGH I'D
APPRECIATE IT IF YOU
COULD GET SEATED
BEFORE THE
BELL RANG.

OTHERWISE
IT TAKES TOO LONG
TO REGAIN THE
ATTENTION OF THE
GODBOYS.

YES, MR.
CYCLOPS.

I'M
SORRY,
SIR.

IT'S LIKE THEY ONLY
NEED TO LOOK AT ME
TO FALL HOPELESSLY
IN LOVE.

OKAY
NOW, STUDENTS,
LISTEN UP.
GODBOYS...?

BOYS!

AS GODS
AND GODDESSES, WHAT
TYPE OF *HELP* SHOULD
YOU GIVE TO *MORTALS*
WHOM YOU FAVOR?

SHIELDS!

SWORDS!

HERE WE
GO AGAIN...

...WEAPONS
OF WAR ARE SO
NOT MY THING!

HEY, ATHENA!

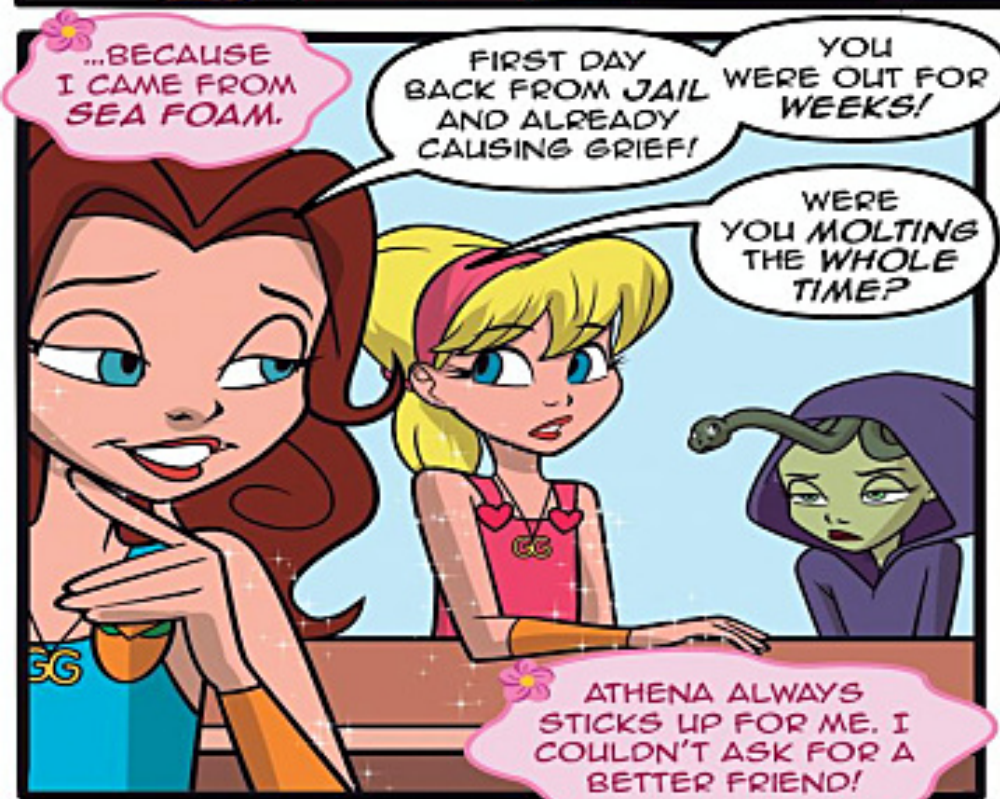
I NEED TO
ASK: WHAT HAVE YOU
HEARD ABOUT AN EARTH
MAIDEN WHO CAN
RUN...

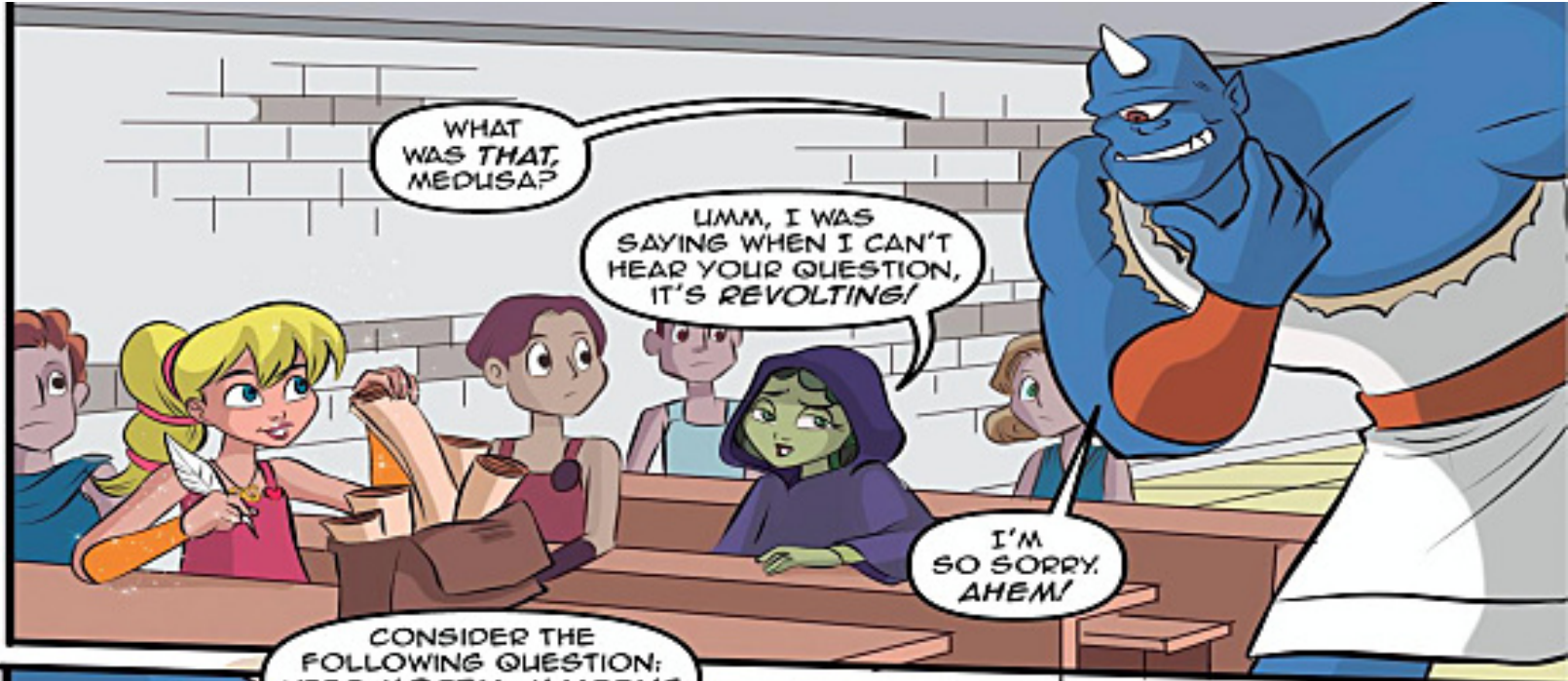
...SWIFT AS
THE WIND, *FASTER*
THAN ANY YOUTH
OR BEAST?

TAP
TAP
TAP

HMM?
WHAT?

SPEAK UP,
KNOW-IT-ALL!





POOR ATHENA!
SHE'S NEVER REALLY
HAD A BOYFRIEND.

BUT
WHAT IF A MAIDEN
WOULD RATHER BE
ALONE?

WHAT IF
SHE HAS OTHER
INTERESTS, LIKE
TRAVELING THE
WORLD...

...OR
BECOMING A
FIRST-CLASS
SCHOLAR...

...OR
INVENTING
THINGS?

IF THE MAIDEN
FEELS THAT WAY, THEN
PERHAPS IT'S ONLY
BECAUSE SHE HASN'T
YET FOUND THE RIGHT
PERSON.

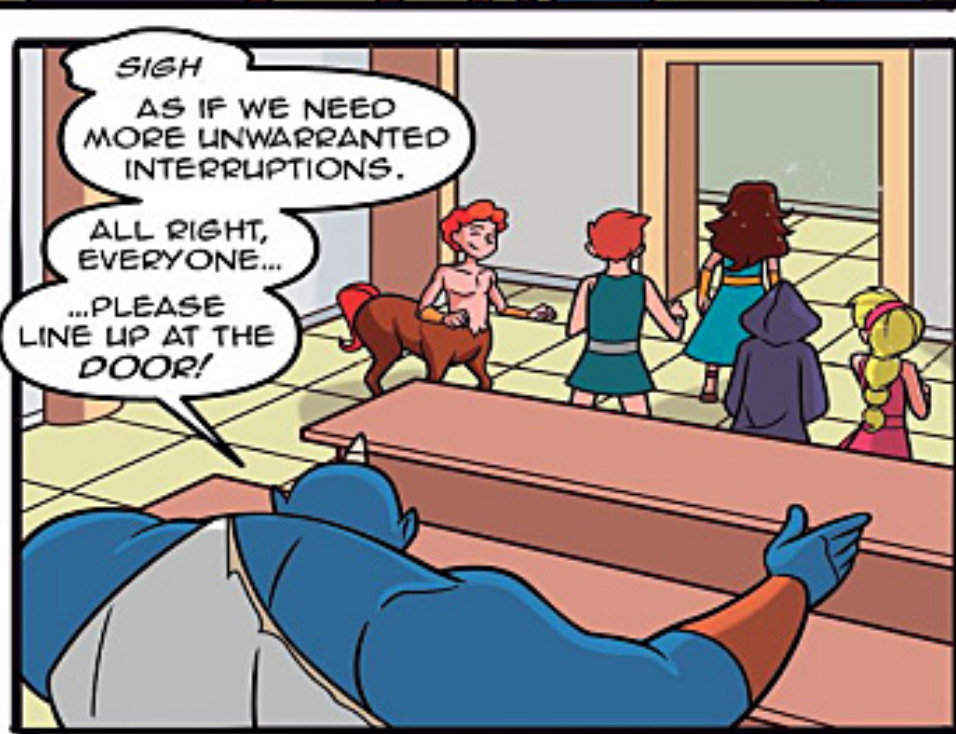
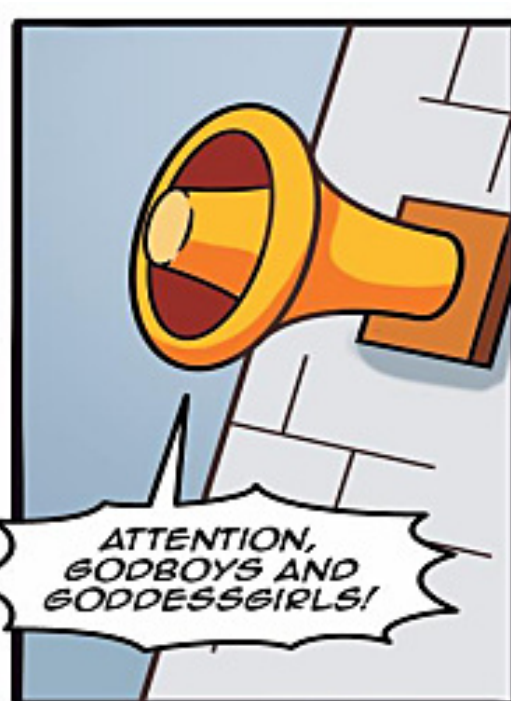
BUT NOT
ALL PEOPLE
MARRY.
SO WHY
SHOULD ALL
MAIDENS?

JUST WAIT TILL
SHE EXPERIENCES HER
FIRST CRUSH—SHE'LL
THINK DIFFERENTLY
THEN!

THAT'S
BECAUSE MANY
YOUTHS PREFER
THE LIFE OF
ADVENTURE!

THAT'S
RIGHT!
ADVENTURE
OVER MARRIAGE
ANY DAY!

SPLASH!



EVERY YEAR,
THE CHARIOT RACE
ASSEMBLY IS A
DEADLY DULL
SPEECH.

WHO AMONG US
DOESN'T KNOW THAT
RACING INTO A TURN COULD
CAUSE A CHARIOT TO
TIP OVER?

OR THAT
YOU SHOULDN'T
FLY A WINGED CHARIOT
STRAIGHT INTO THE
SUN?

BUT *THIS* YEAR
IS A SURPRISE. *ZEUS*
IS PUTTING ON A REAL
DEMONSTRATION OF
RACING CHARIOTS!

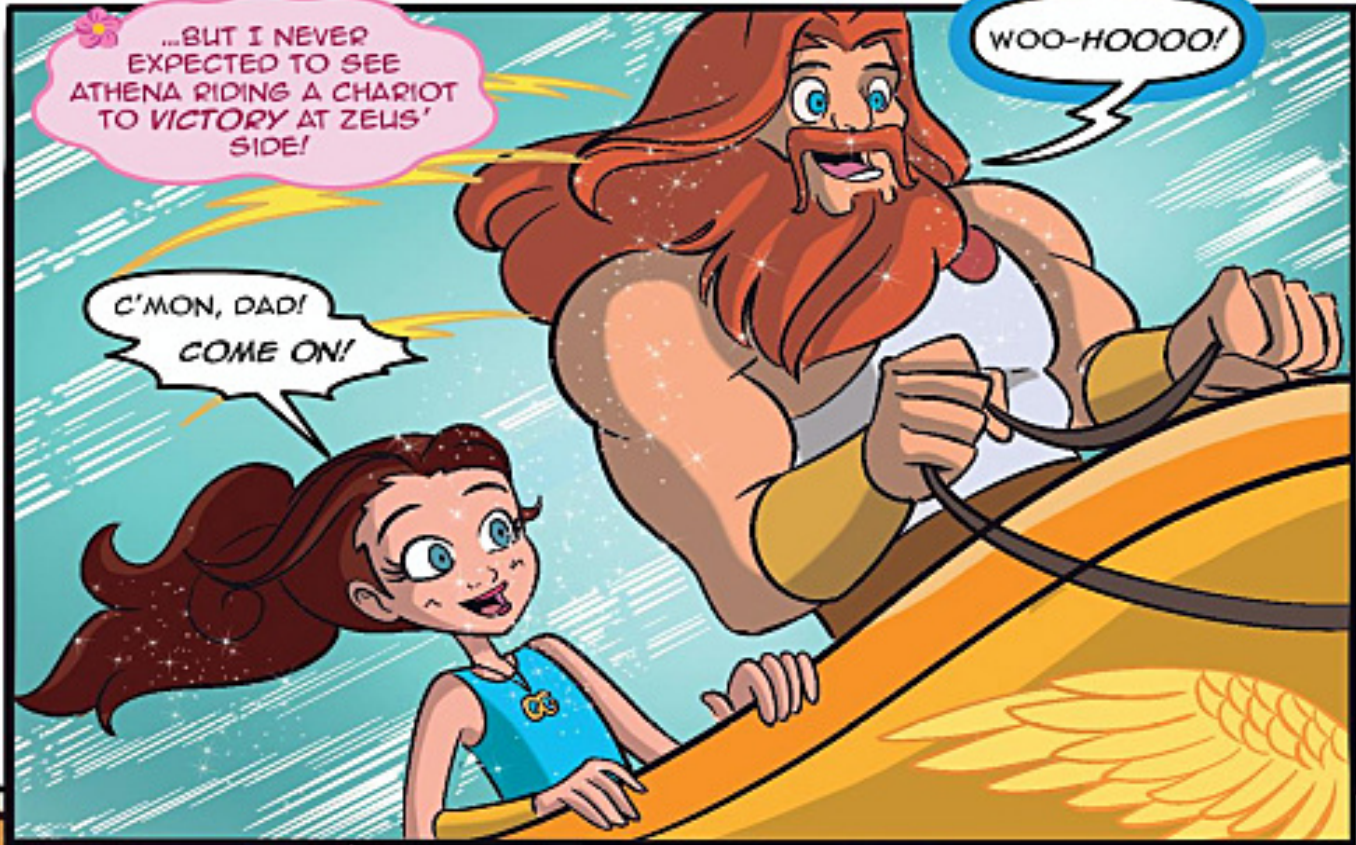
RUMBLE

BECAUSE THIS IS
THE FIRST CHARIOT RACE
ON OLYMPUS SINCE *ATHENA*
MOVED HERE, I WANT TO
SEE HER EXCITEMENT
WATCHING IT.

ATHENA,
WHERE ARE
YOU?

SHE'LL BE
DOUBLY EXCITED THAT
HER FATHER IS LEADING
THE DEMONSTRATION...

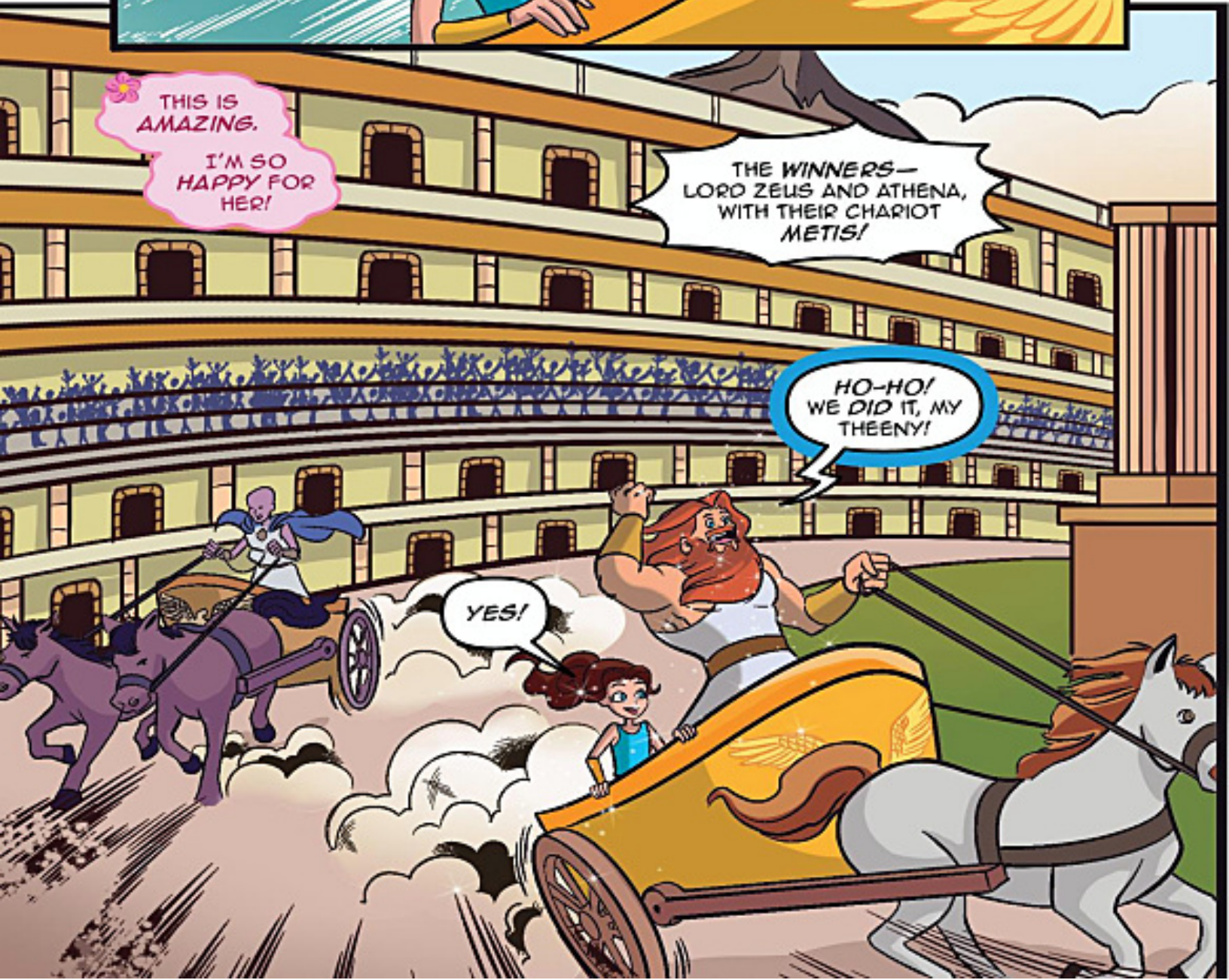
ATHENA!



...BUT I NEVER
EXPECTED TO SEE
ATHENA RIDING A CHARIOT
TO VICTORY AT ZEUS'
SIDE!

WOO-HOOOO!

C'MON, DAD!
COME ON!



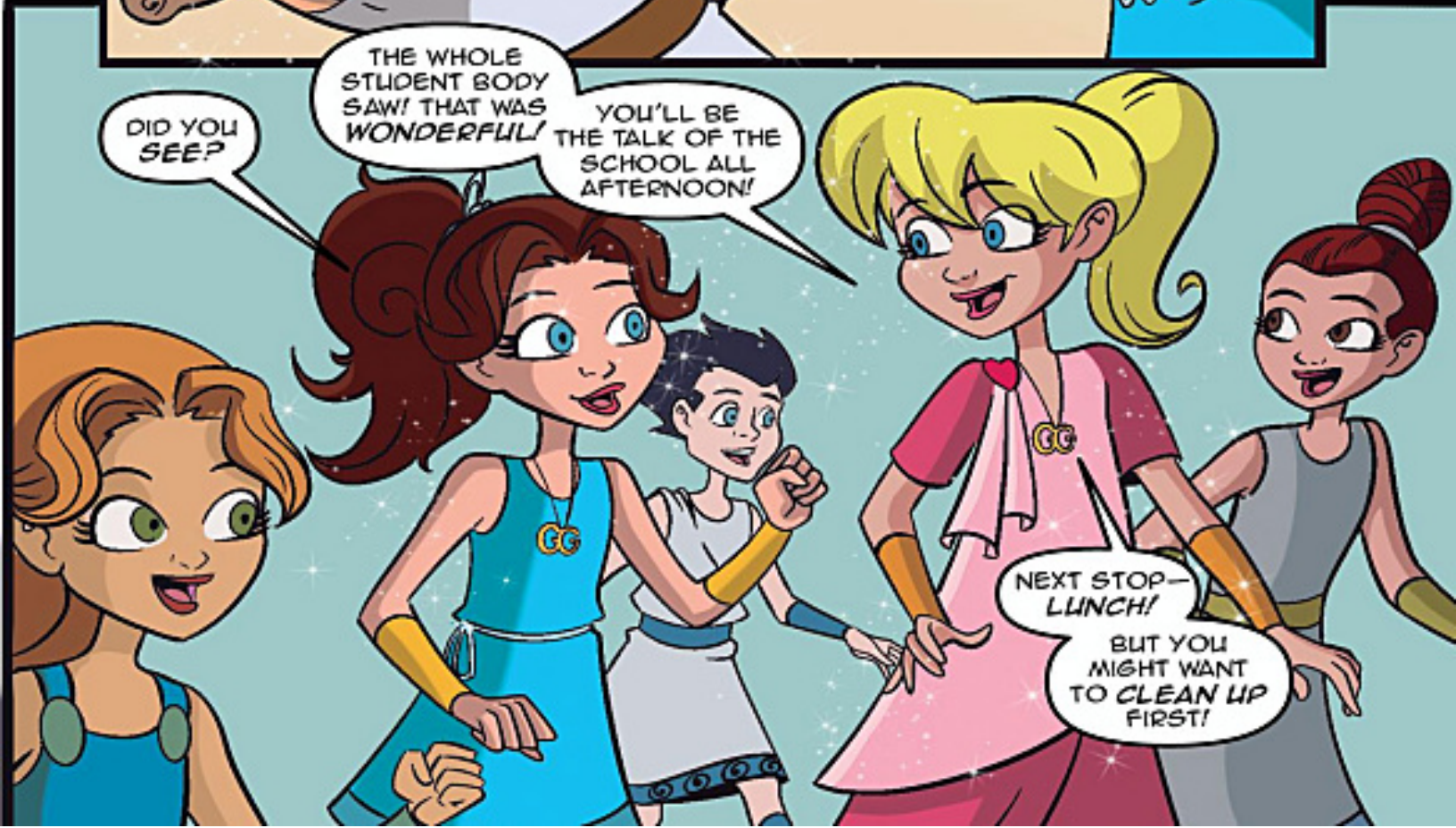
THIS IS
AMAZING.

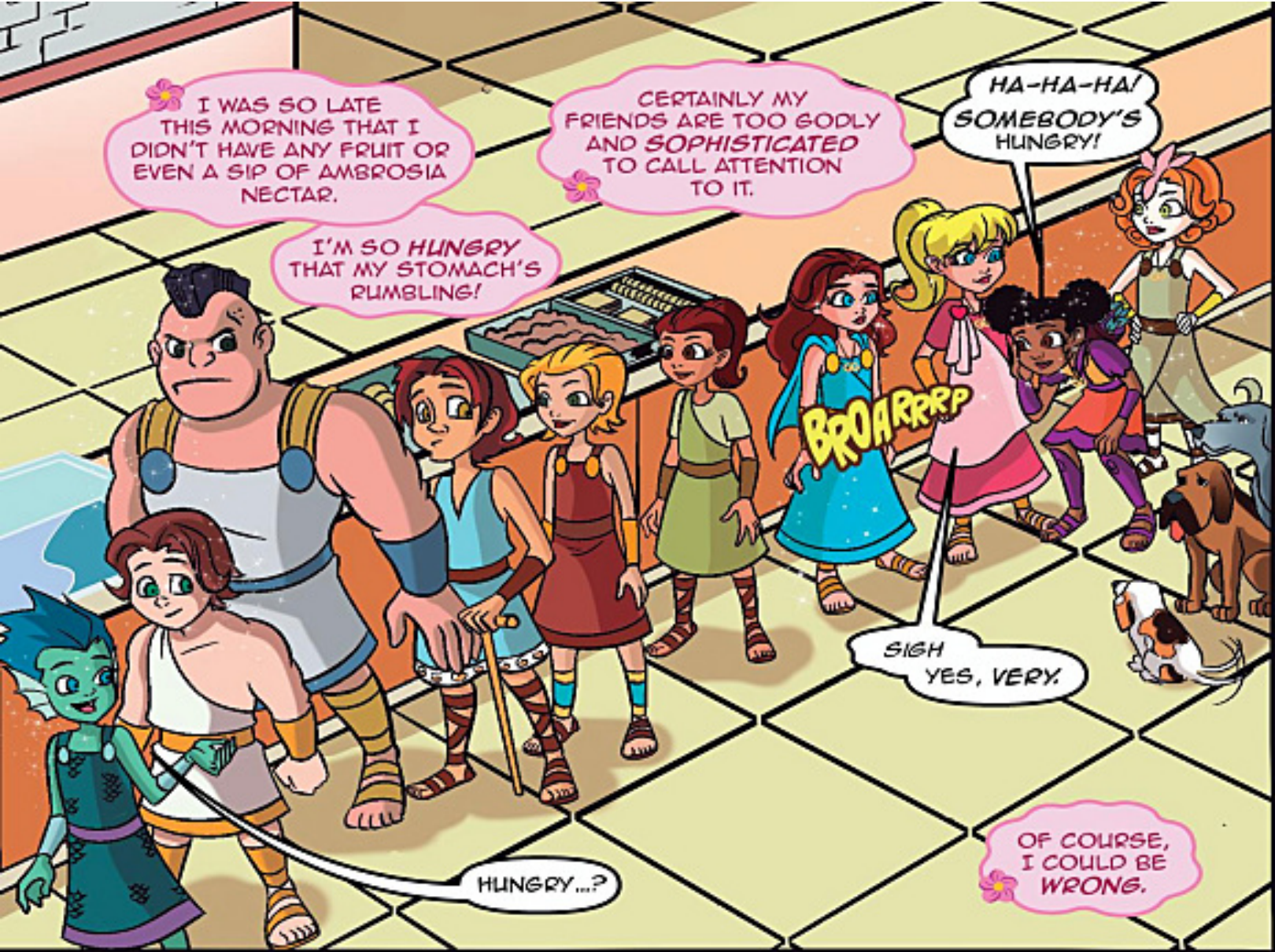
I'M SO
HAPPY FOR
HER!

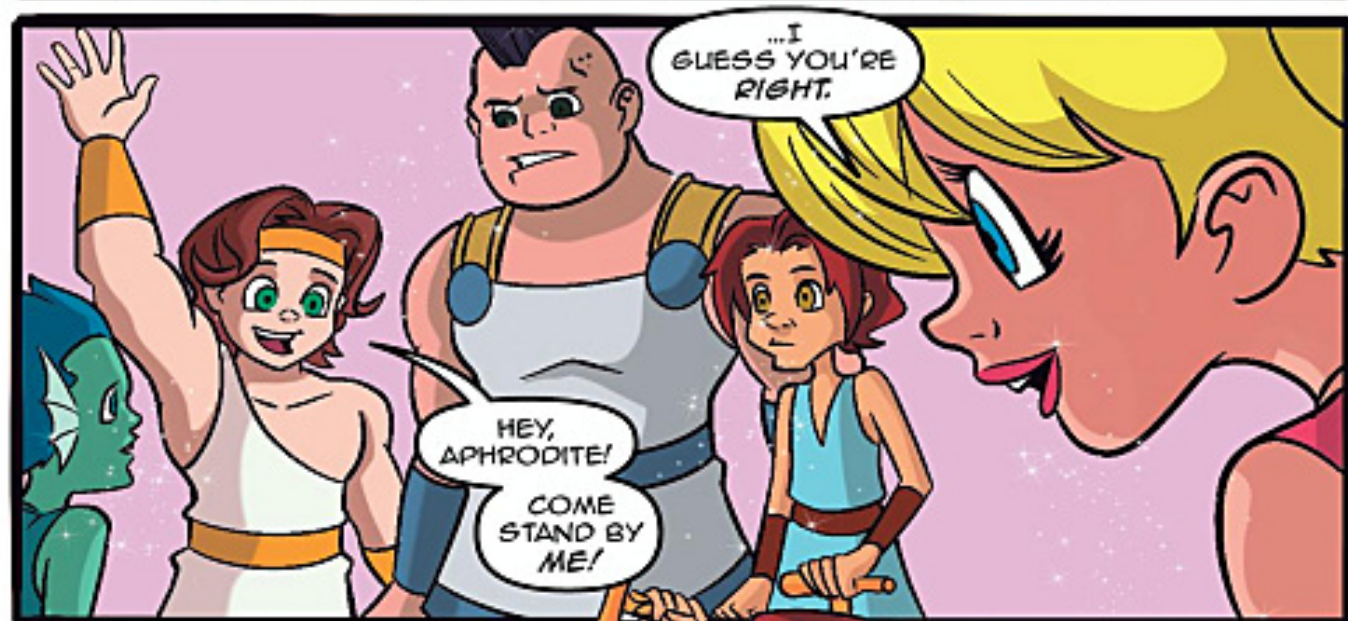
THE WINNERS—
LORD ZEUS AND ATHENA,
WITH THEIR CHARIOT
METIS!

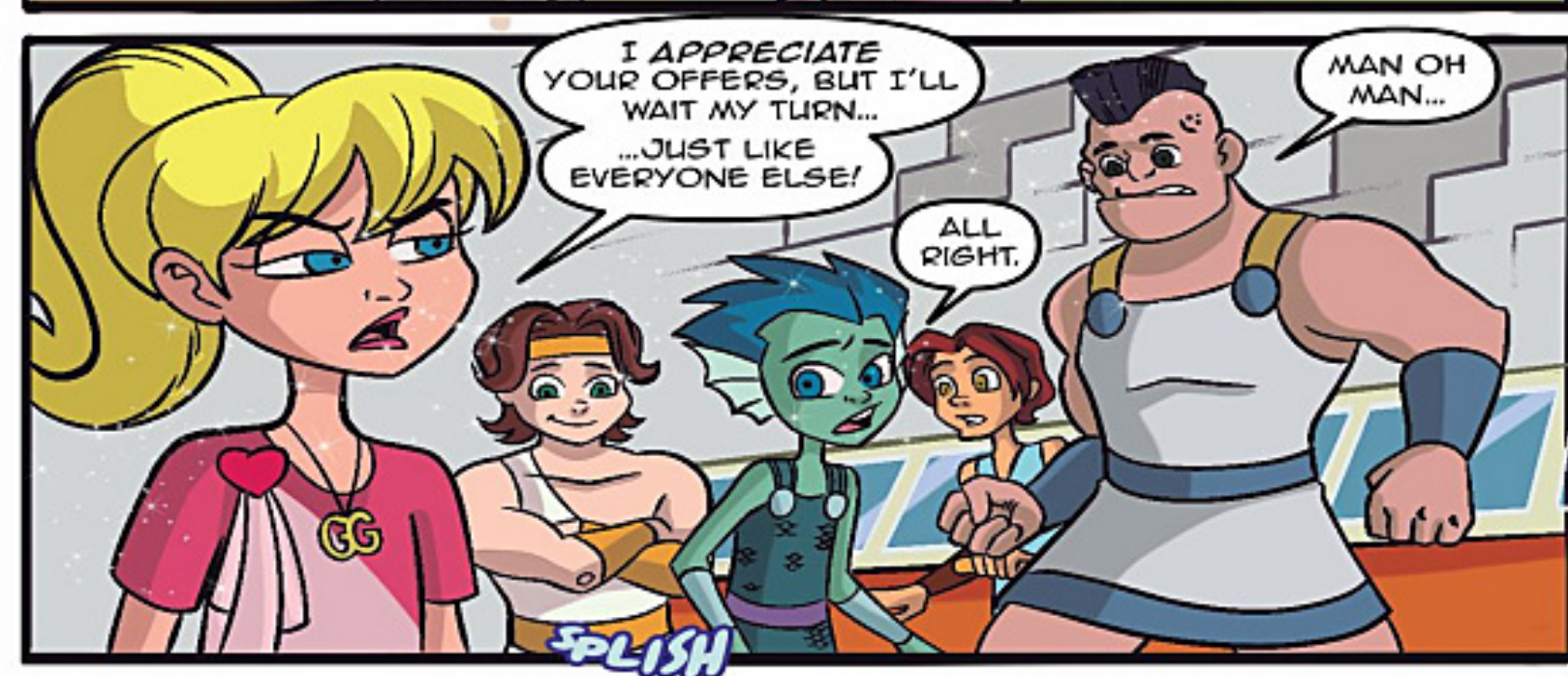
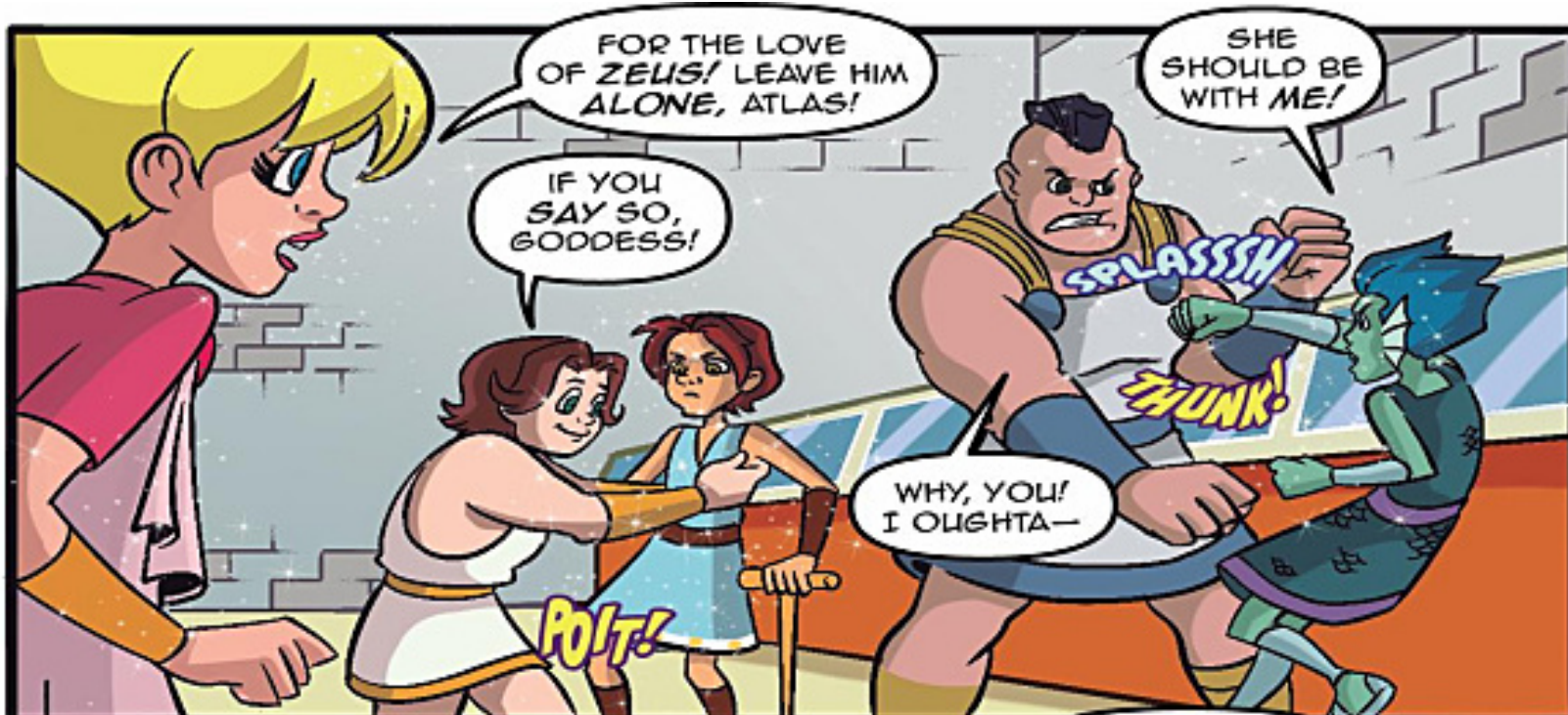
HO-HO!
WE DID IT, MY
THEENY!

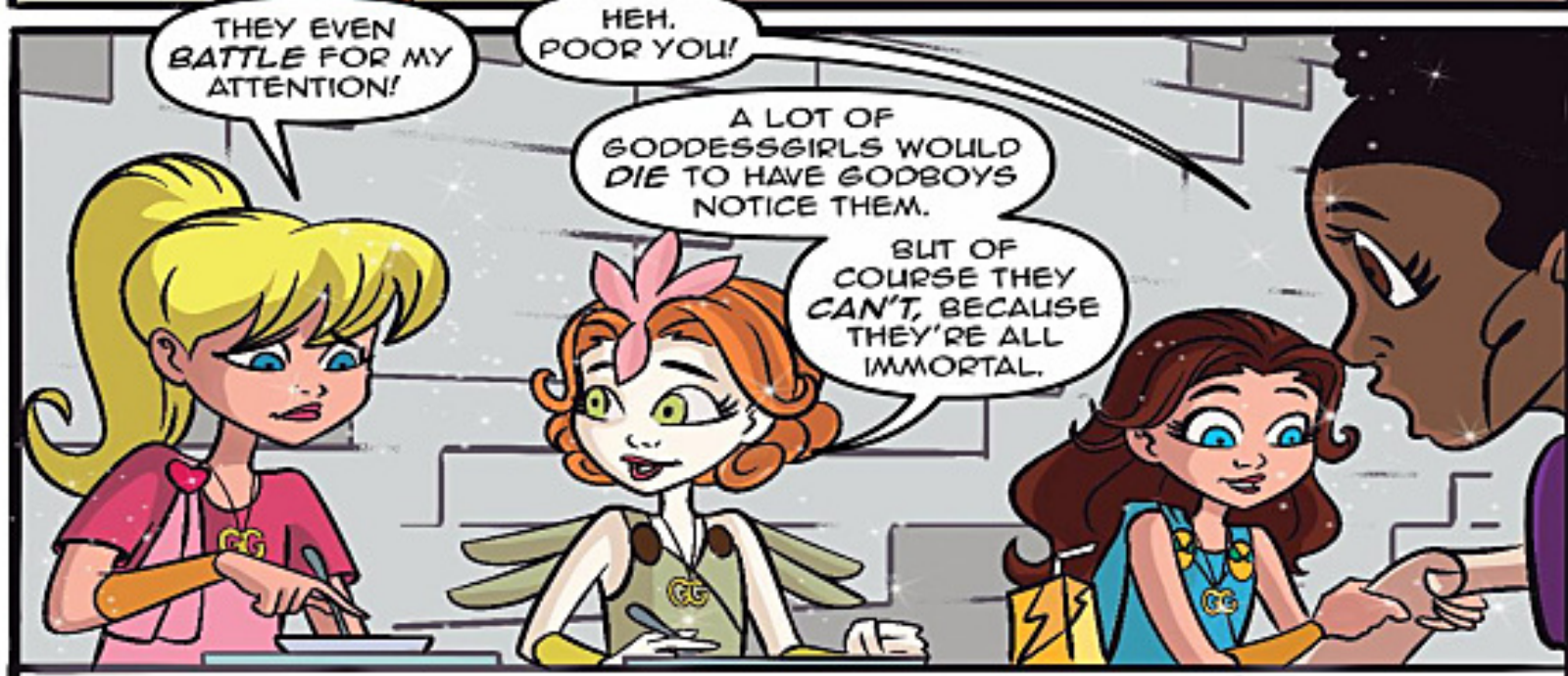
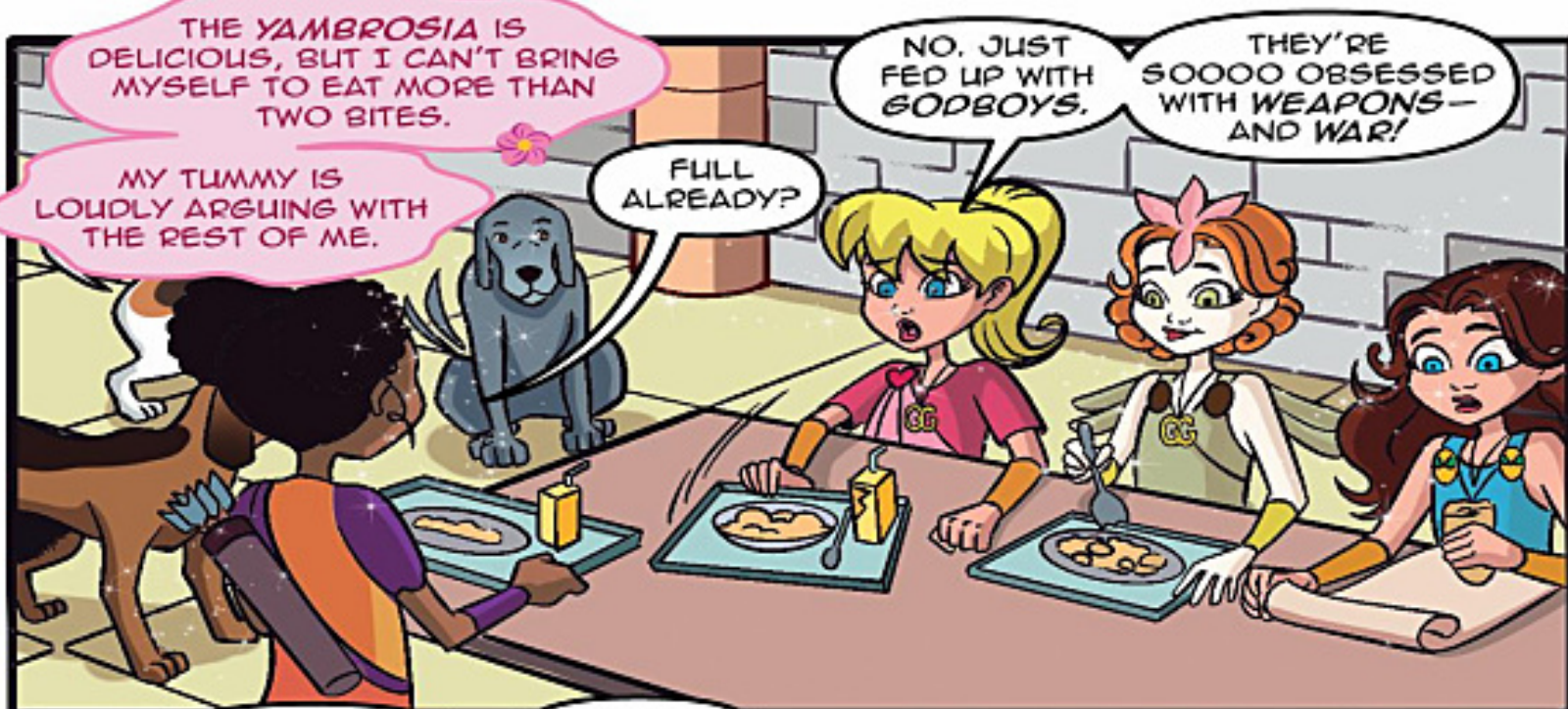
YES!













ATHENA IS EASILY THE BRIGHTEST OF US, DESPITE BEING THE YOUNGEST AND RAISED BY MORTALS.

SHE'S NEVER SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN GODBOYS, AND IT NEVER SEEMS LIKE THEY ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN HER.

SAY, ARE YOU THINKING...?

YOU BET!

WHAT? WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?

DO I HAVE SOMETHING IN MY TEETH?

NO, YOU'RE FINE!

CATCH YOU AFTER CLASSES!

I KNOW THAT LOOK.

YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE FED UP WITH GODBOYS' ANNOYING ANTICS.

YEAH, TRUE.

BUT I LOVE STIRRING UP ROMANCE FOR OTHERS.

SURE, THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL BETWEEN PARIS AND HELEN—THAT PESKY TROJAN WAR AND ALL...

...BUT AT LEAST I TRIED TO SET THEM UP!



CHAPTER TWO: THE MAKEOVER

I THINK WE
SHOULD GIVE ATHENA
A MAKEOVER!

A MAKEOVER!
HAIR, NAILS, MAKEUP,
CLOTHES—ALL
OF IT

WHAT DO
YOU SAY?

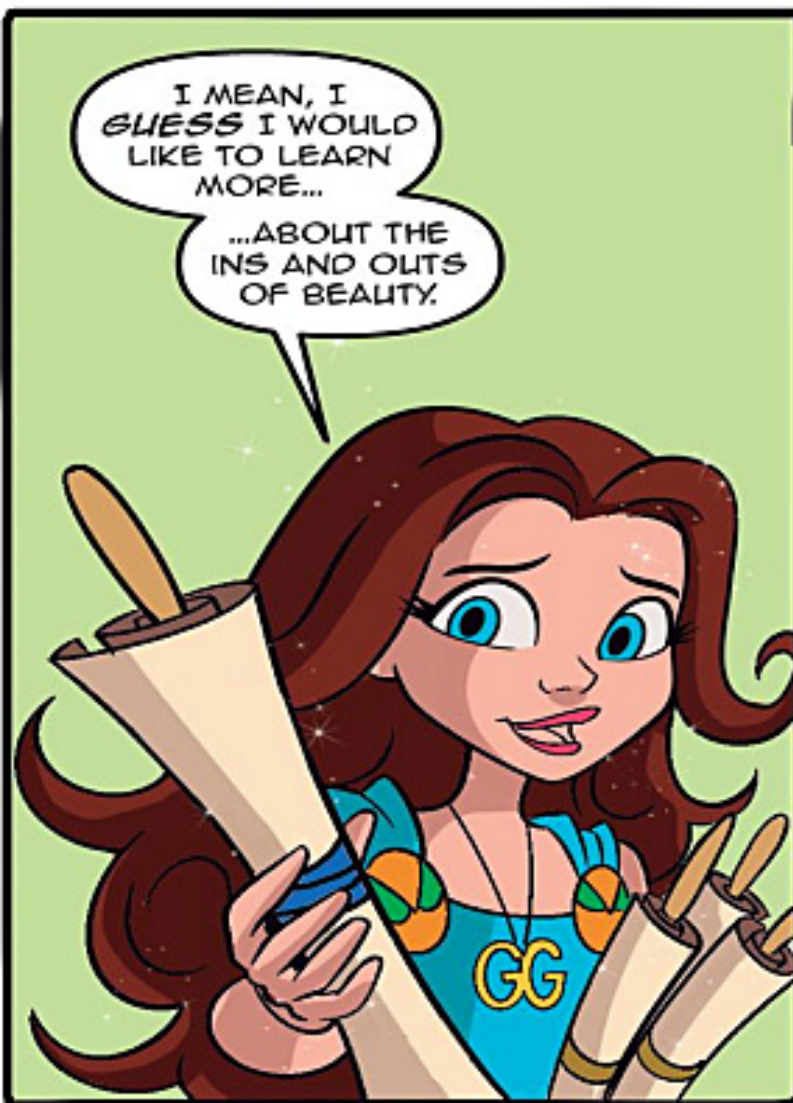
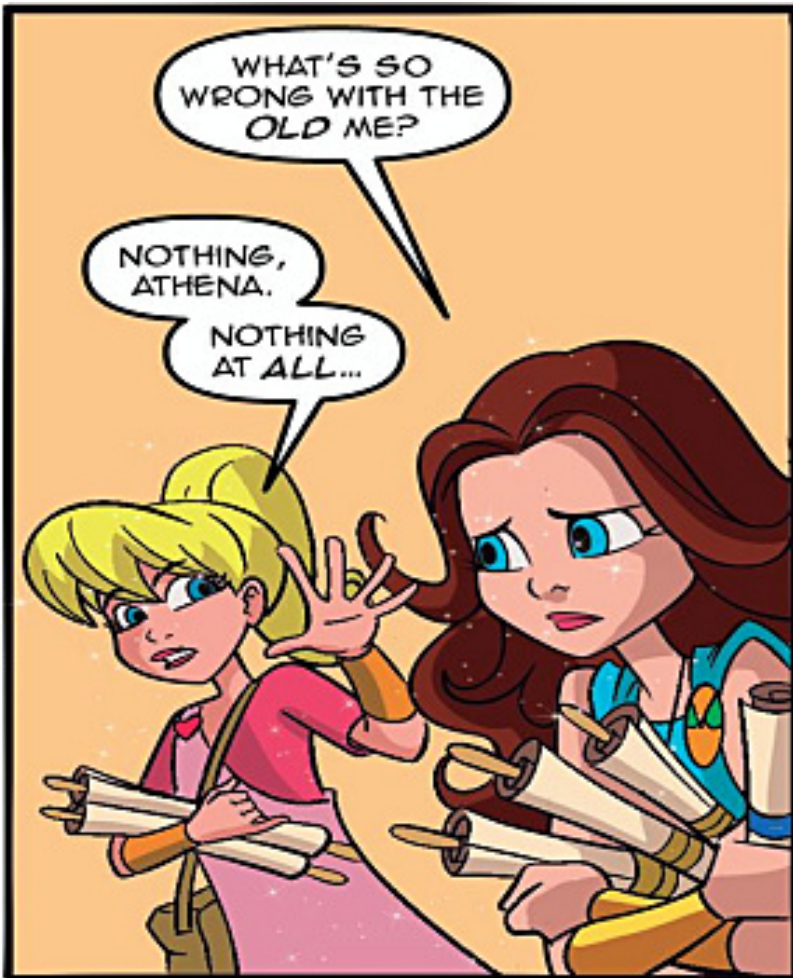
WE'LL
CREATE A WHOLE
NEW YOU!

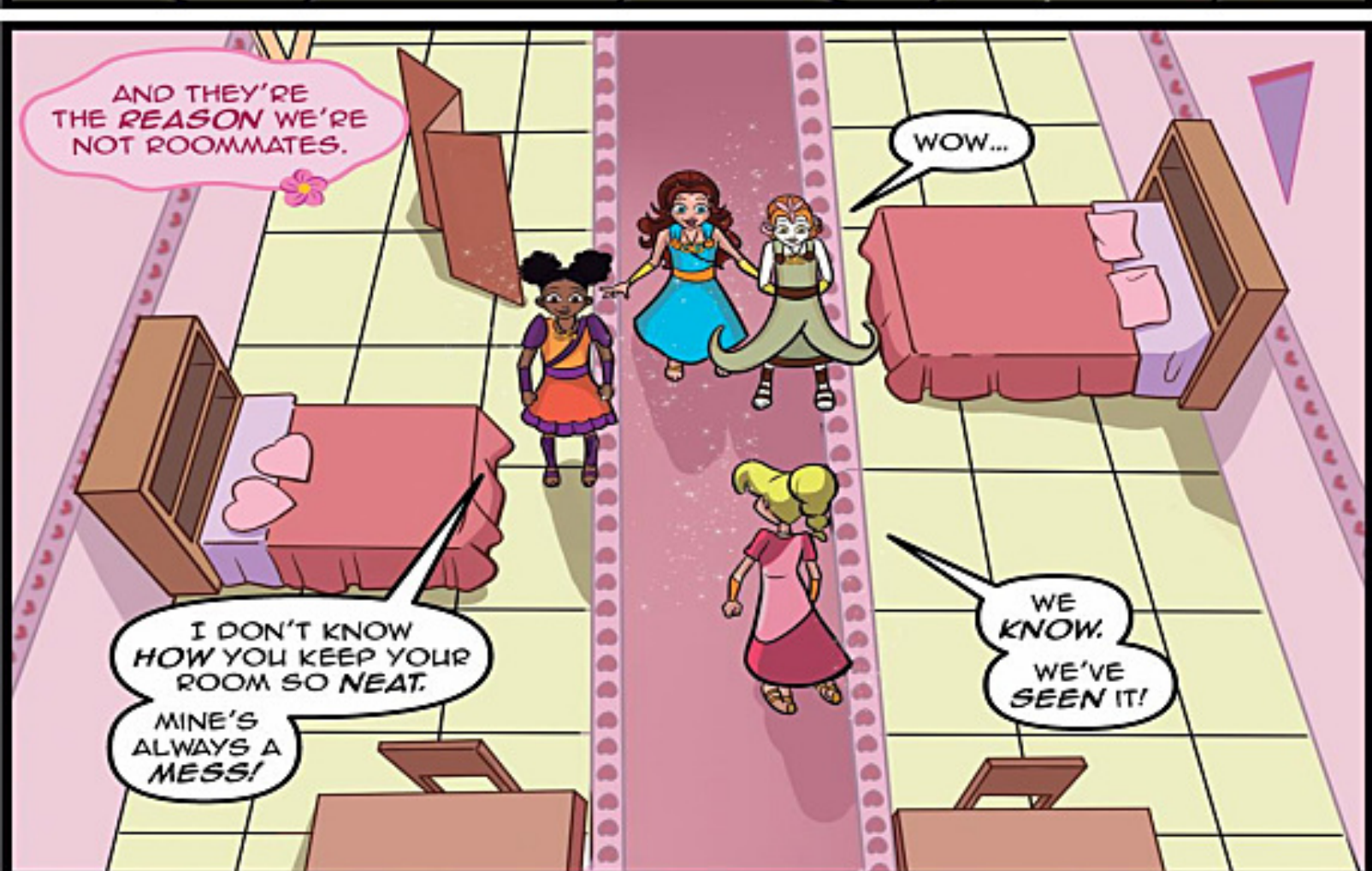
A
WH-WHAT?

WHAT
A GREAT
IDEA!

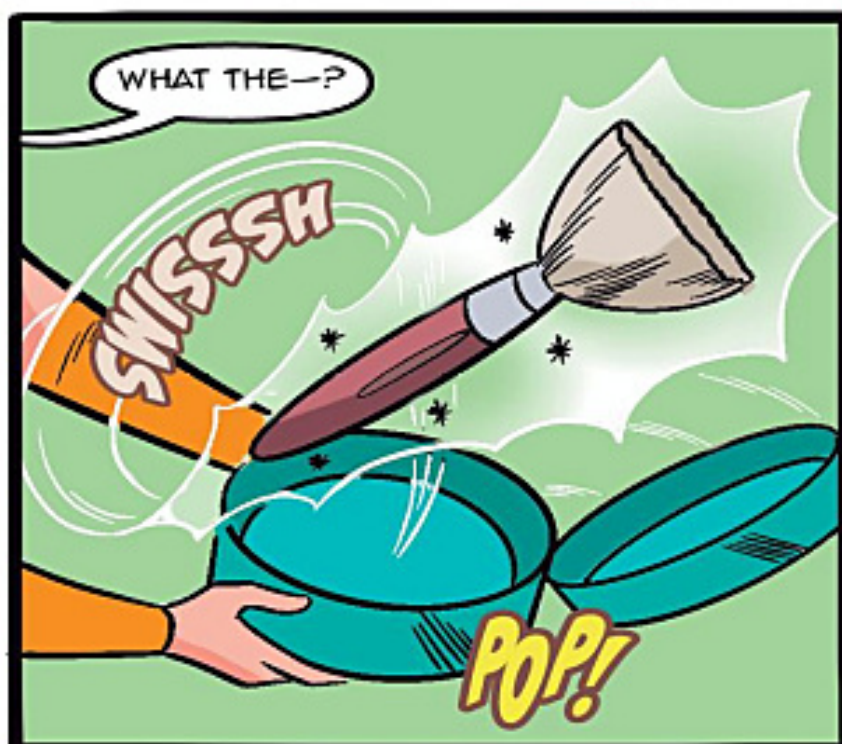
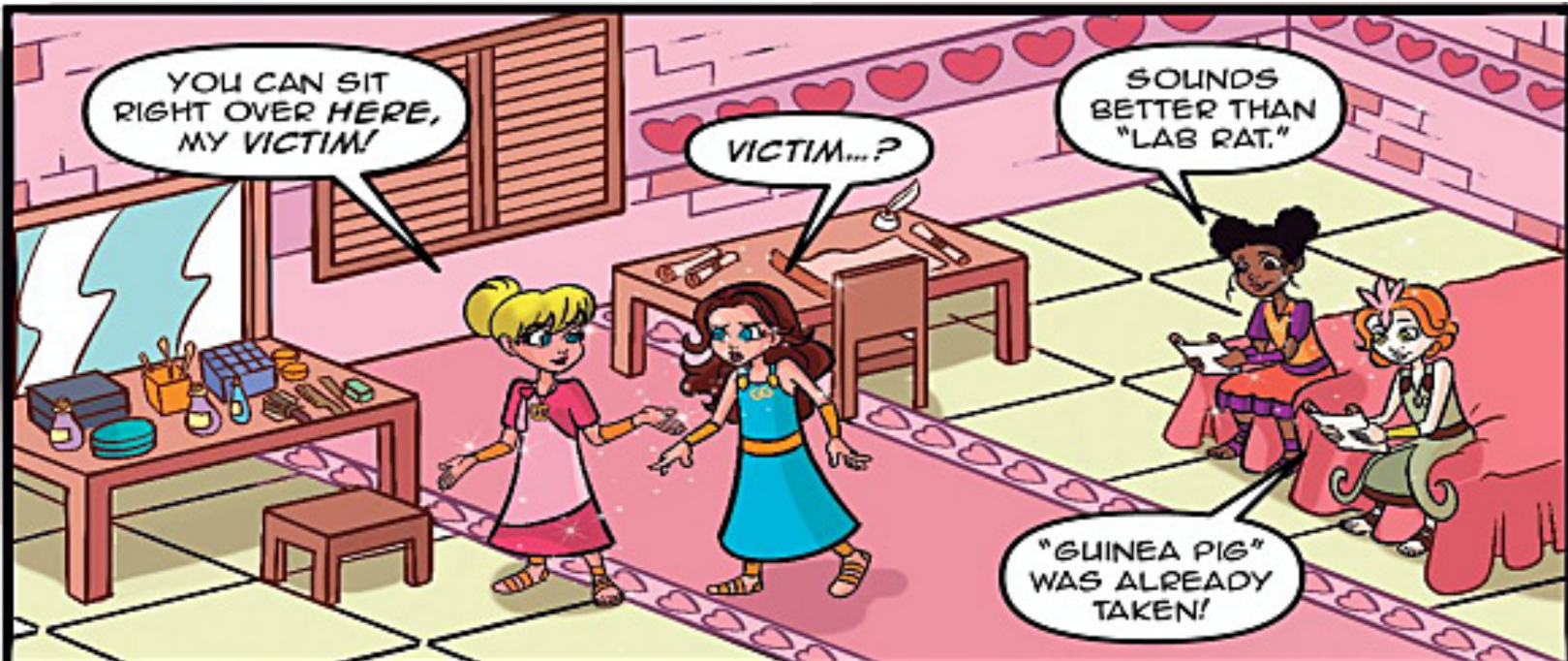
BETTER
HER THAN
ME.



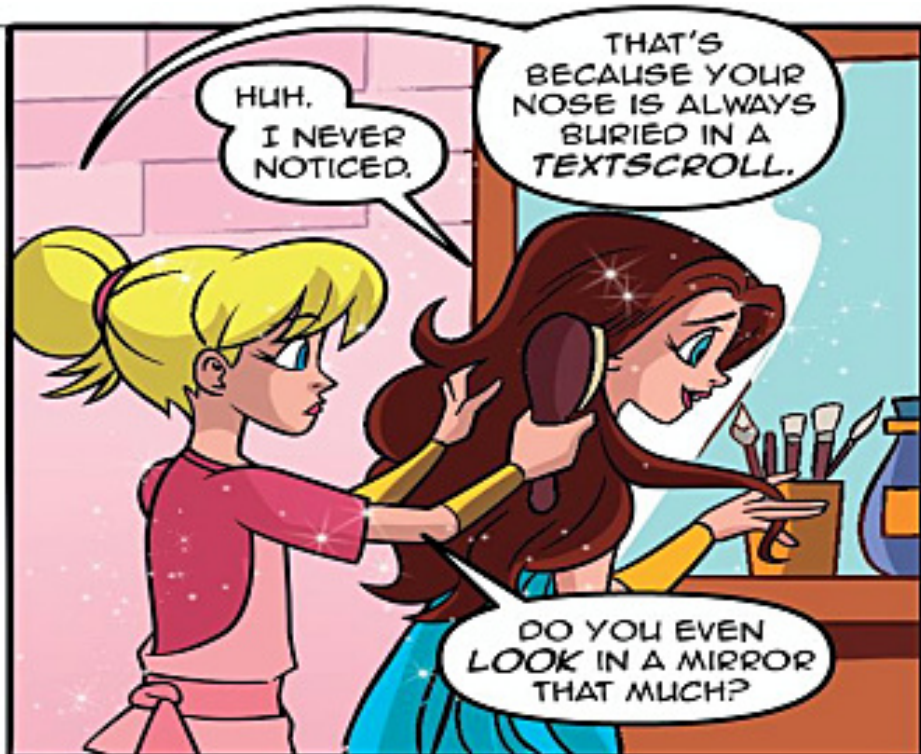




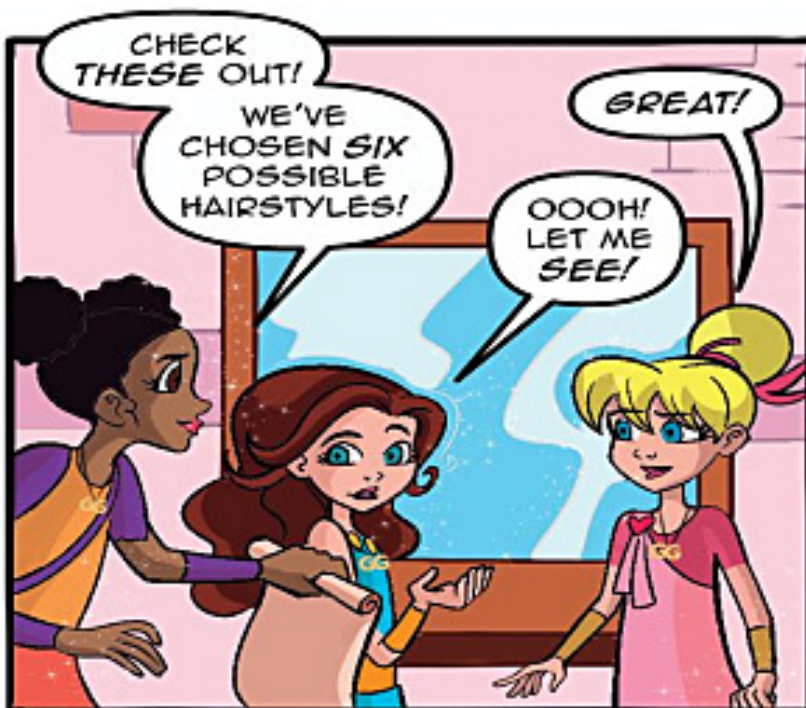


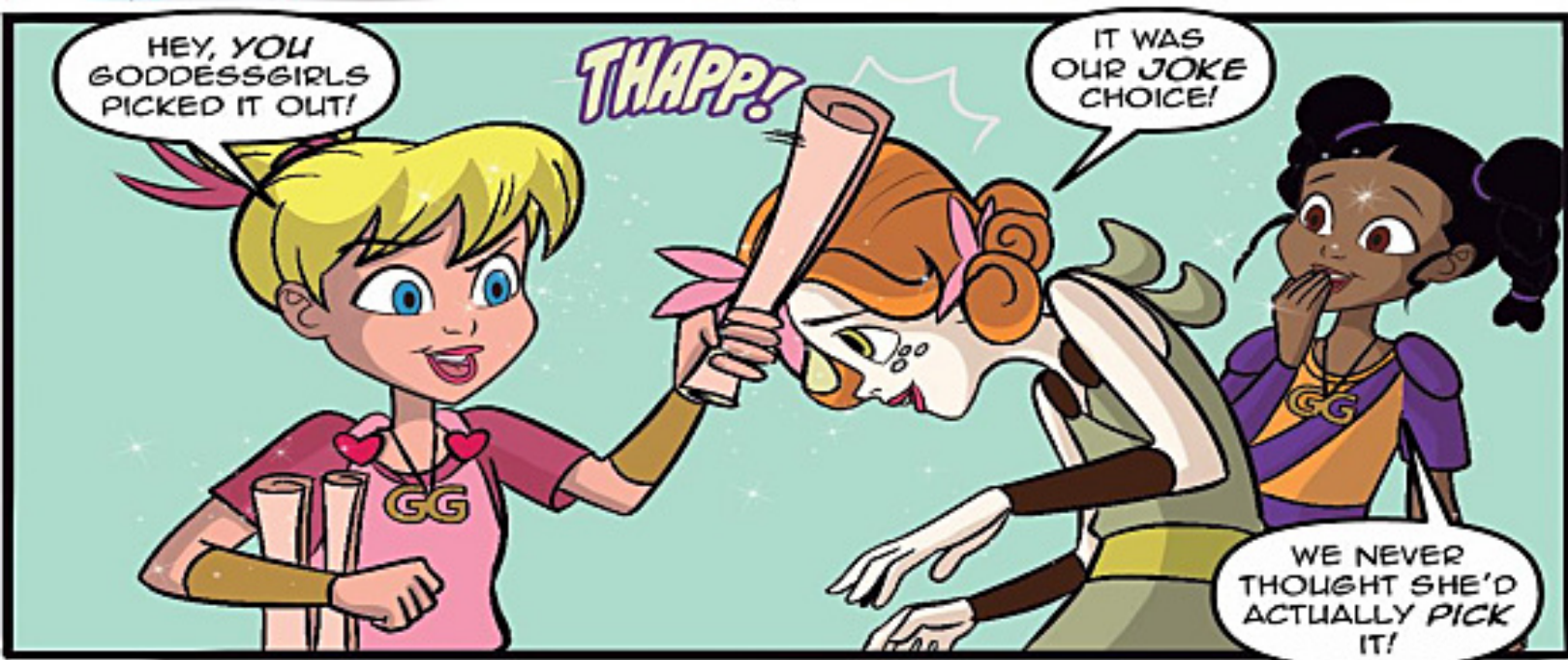
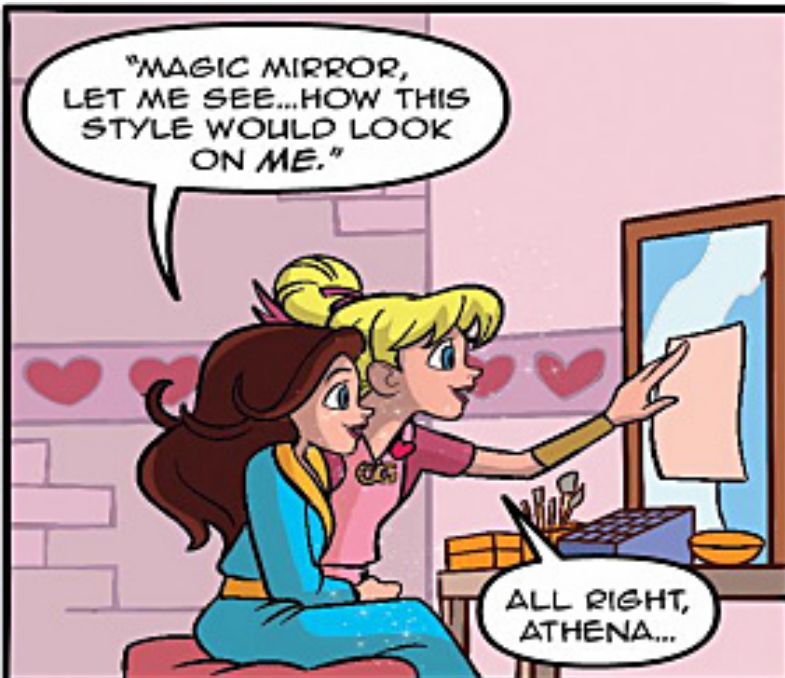


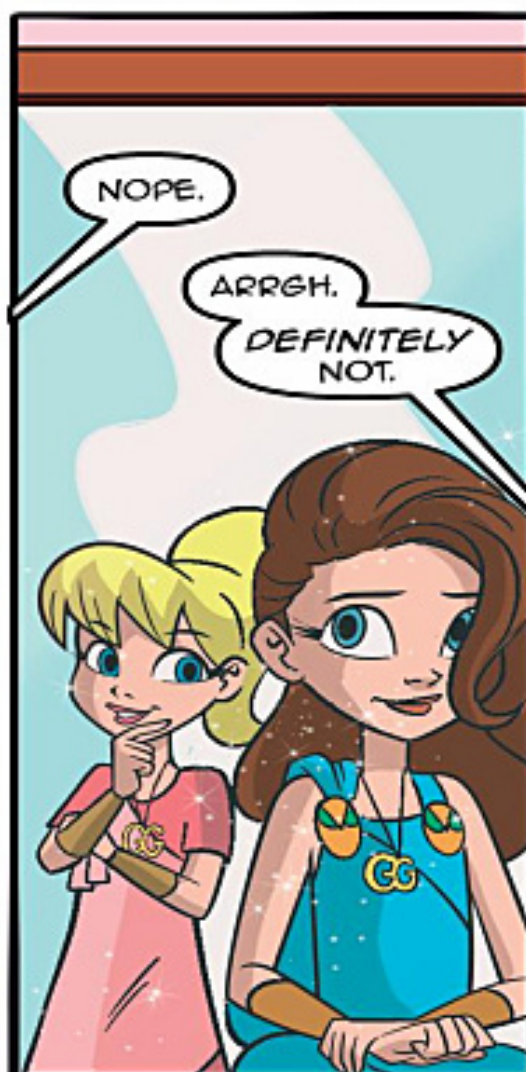
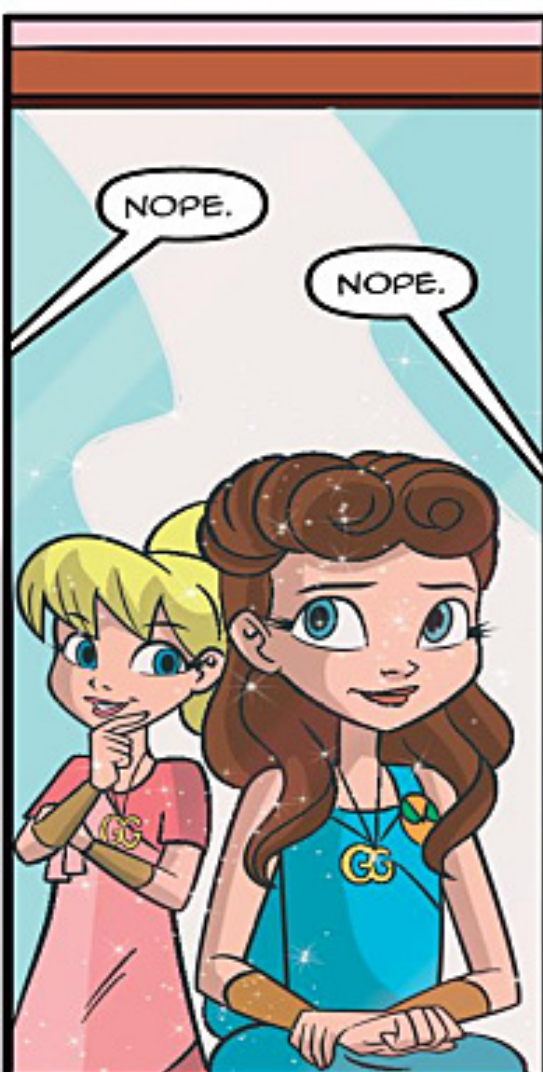
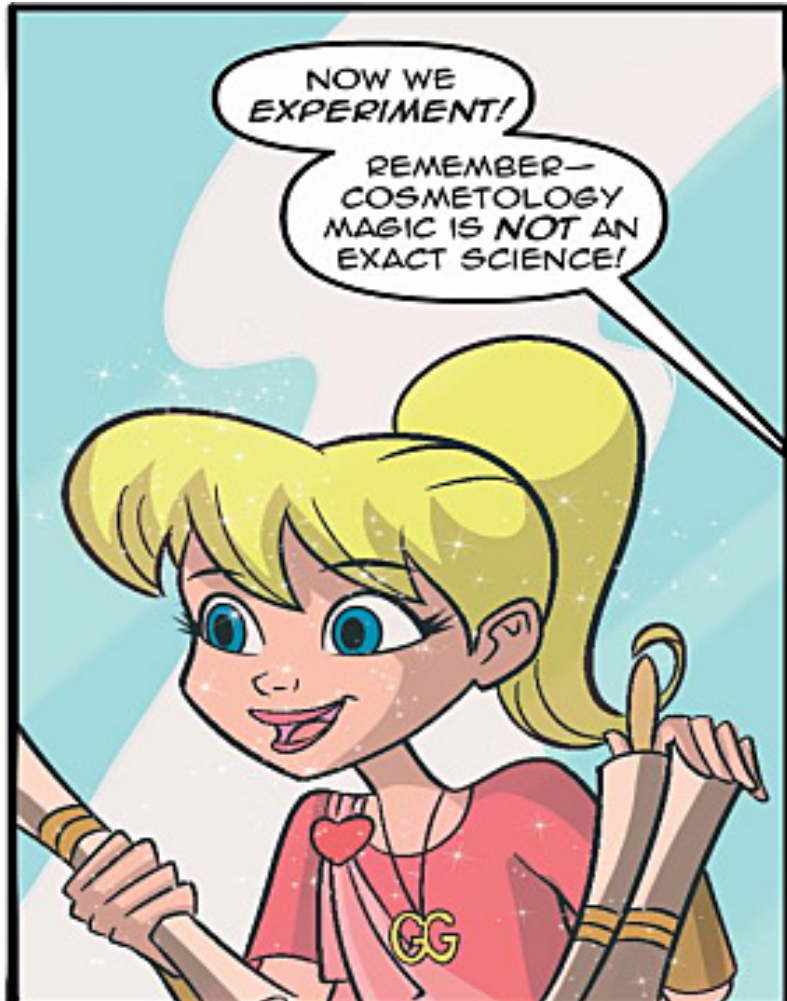












I DON'T BLAME
PERSEPHONE AND ARTEMIS
FOR THE HAIRSTYLES
NOT WORKING.

NOT EVERY
STYLE WORKS FOR
EVERY FACE.

FABULOUS!
I LOVE HOW THESE
LAYERS FRAME
YOUR FACE!

YES!
AND THOSE LONG
BANGS ARE SO
GLAMOROUS!

YOU LOOK
LIKE A DIFFERENT
PERSON! IN A
GOOD WAY!

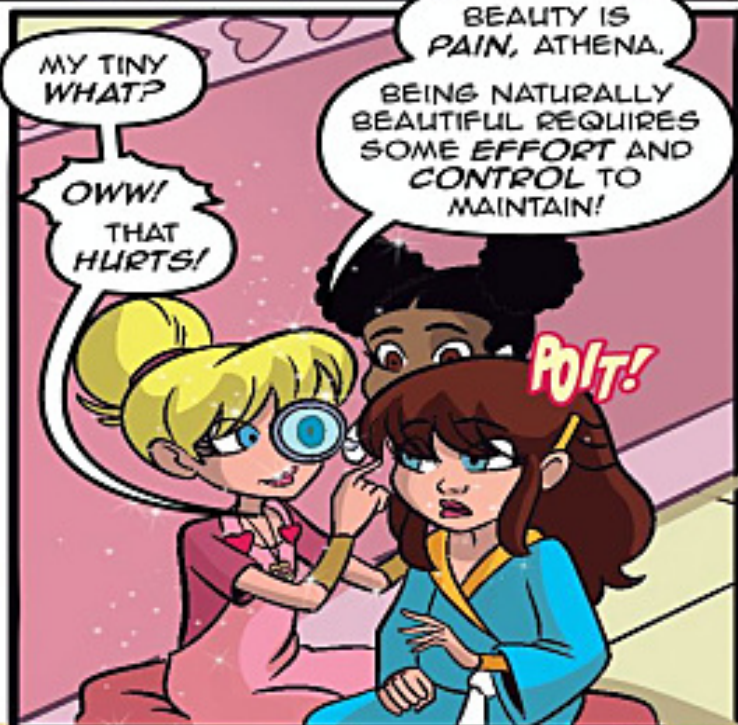
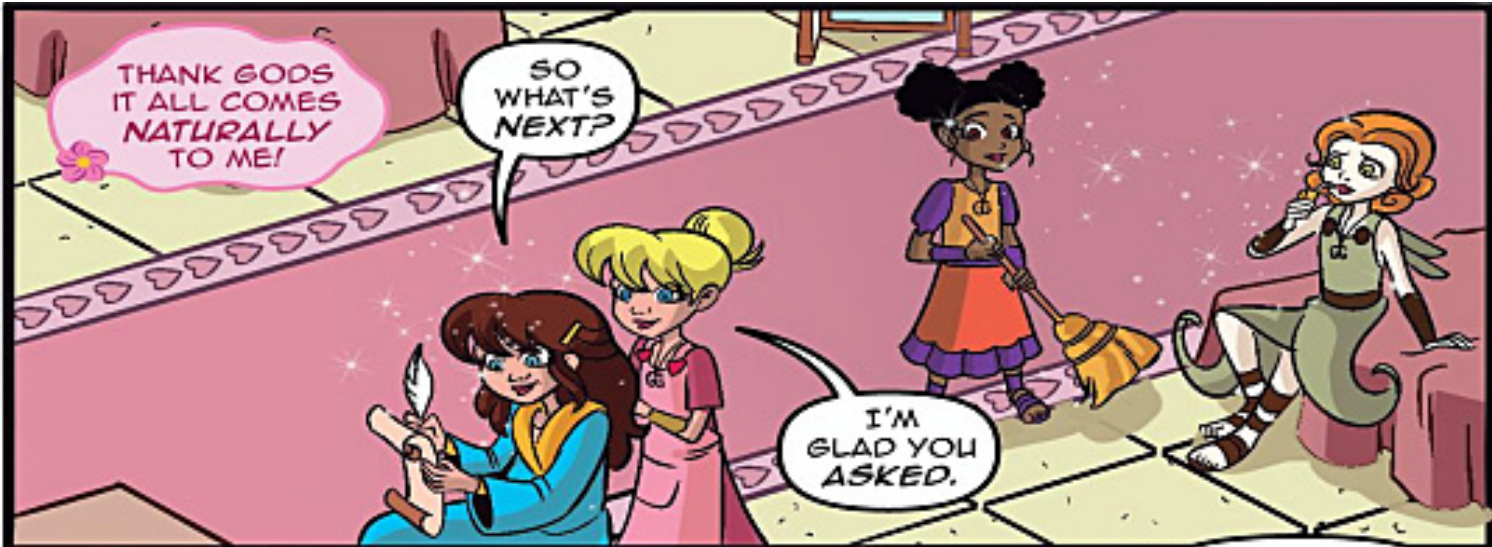
YOU
THINK SO?
GREAT!

NOW
WE HAVE A
WINNER!

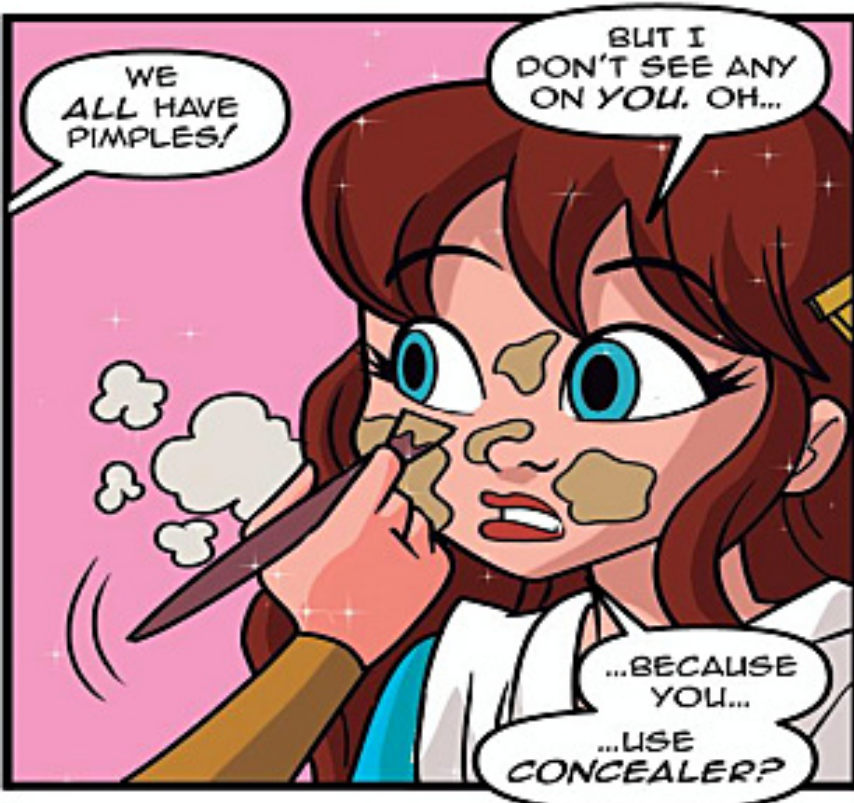
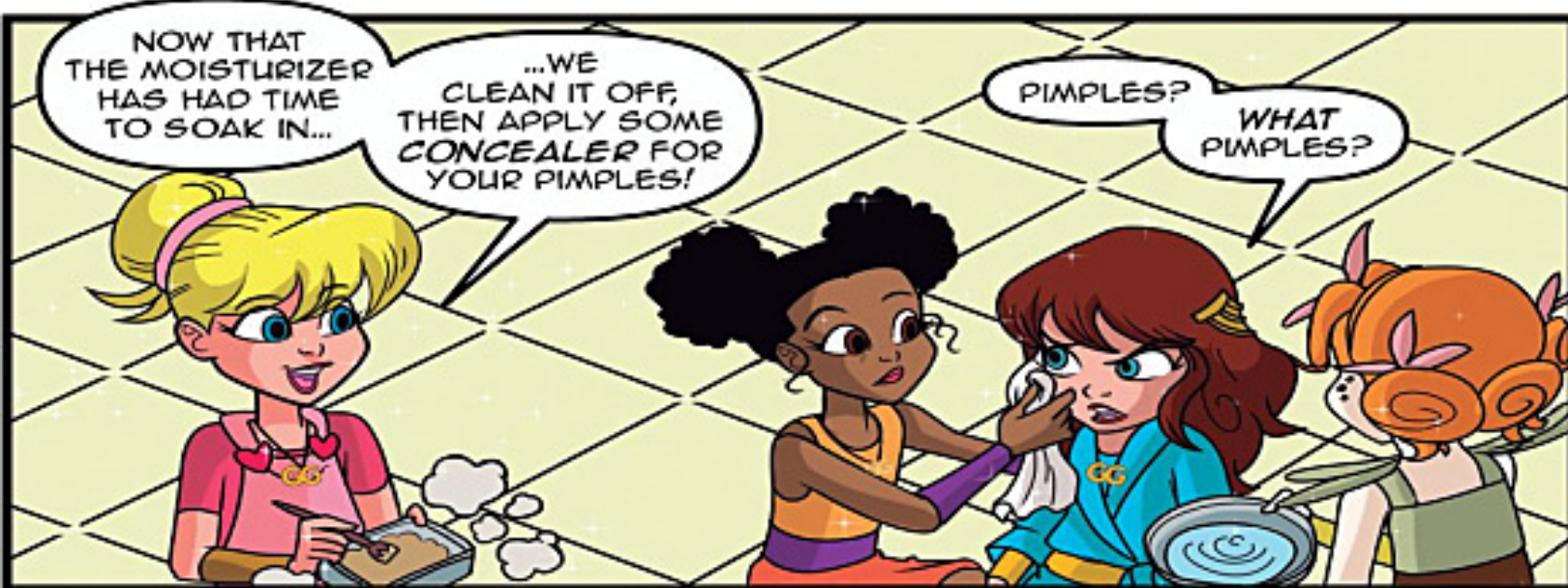
NOW WE
HAVE TO STYLE
YOUR HAIR FOR
REAL!

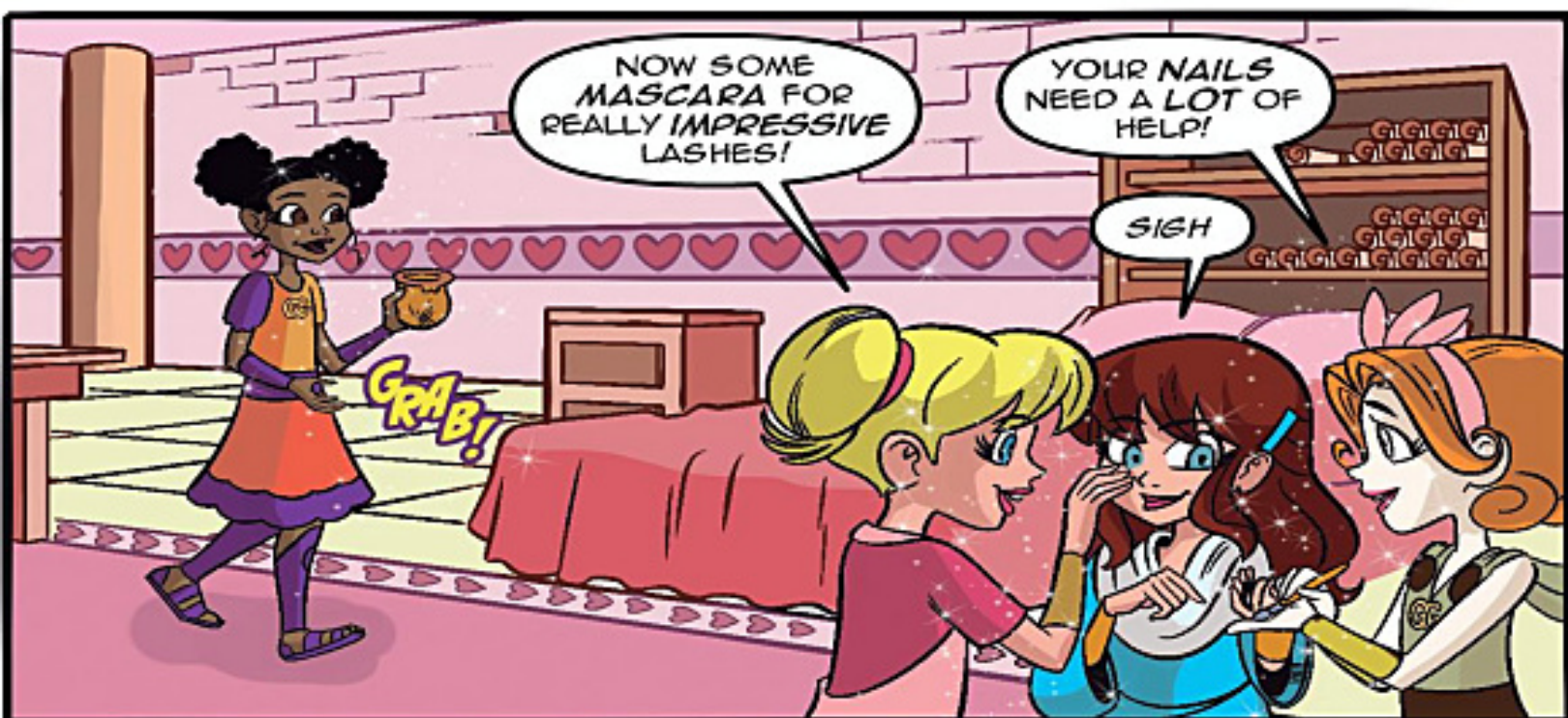
TIME FOR
ME TO WORK MY
OWN MAGIC.

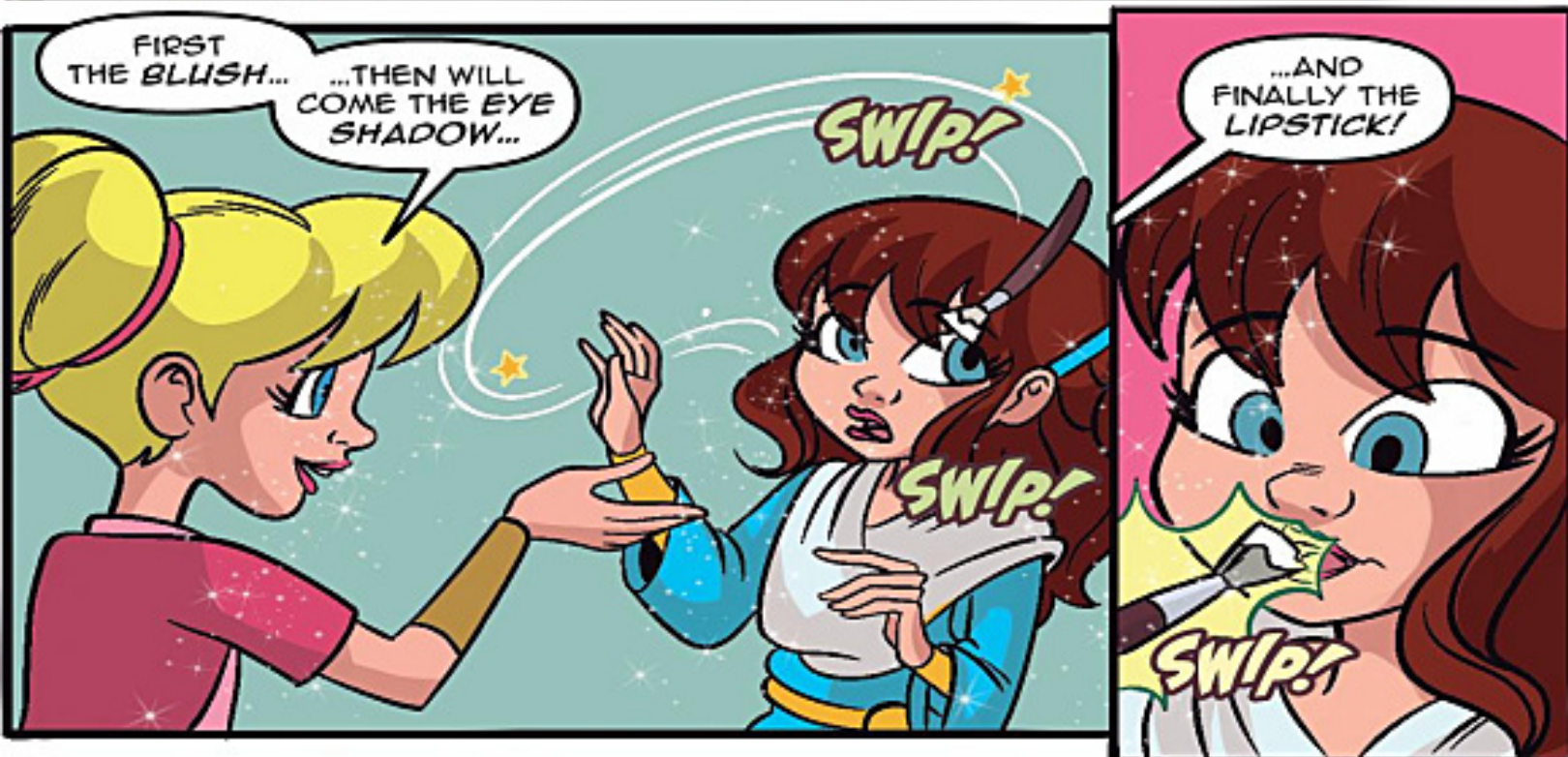
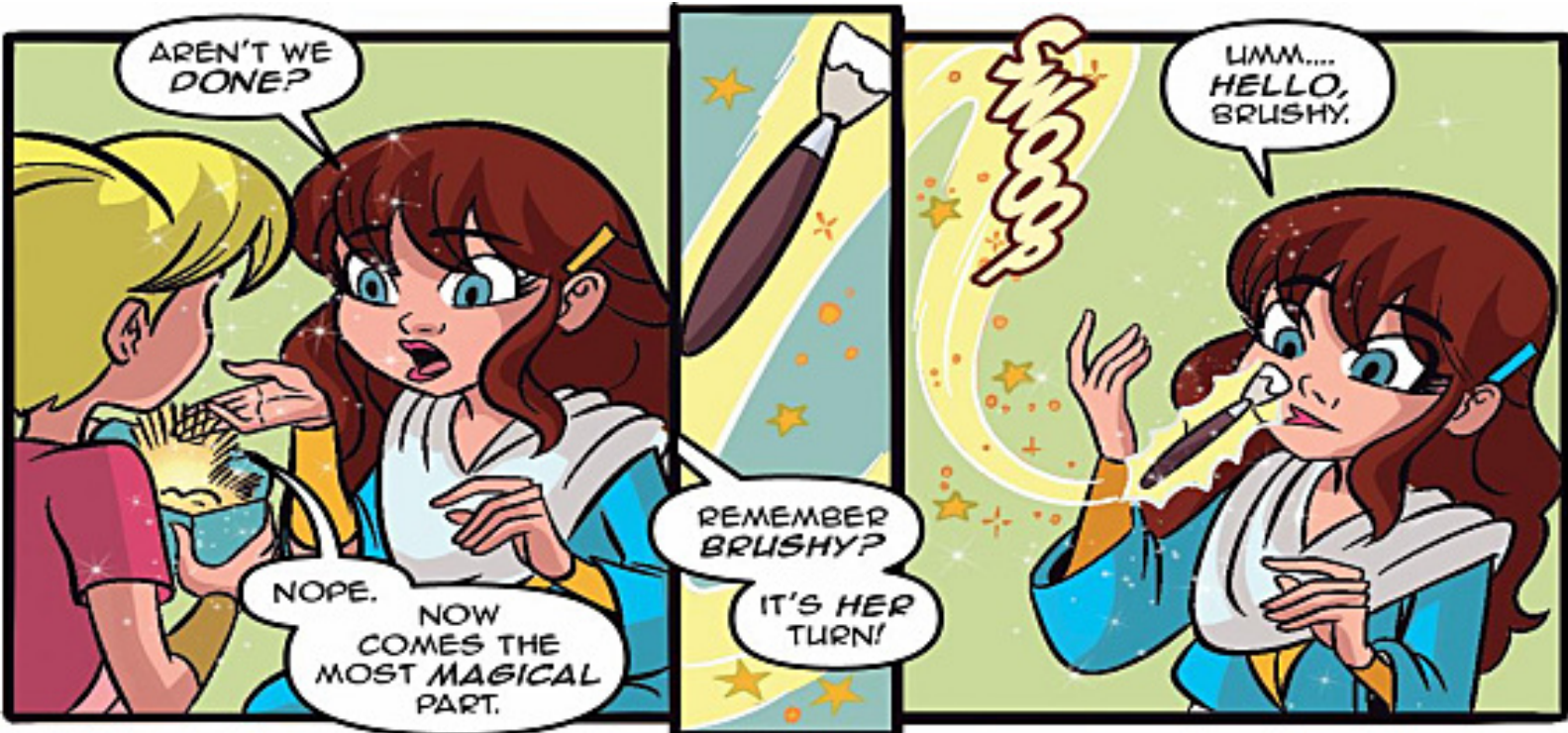
SNIP
SNIP

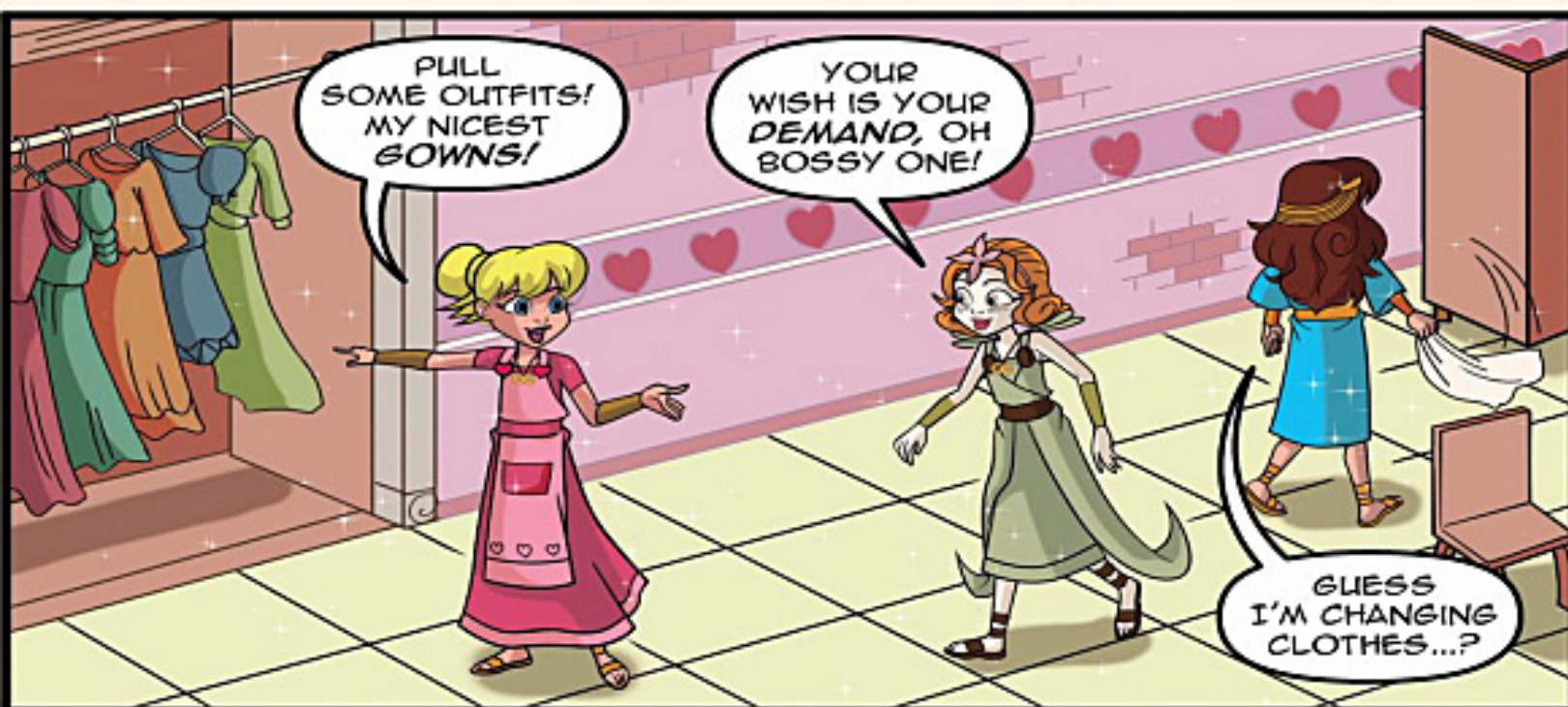
















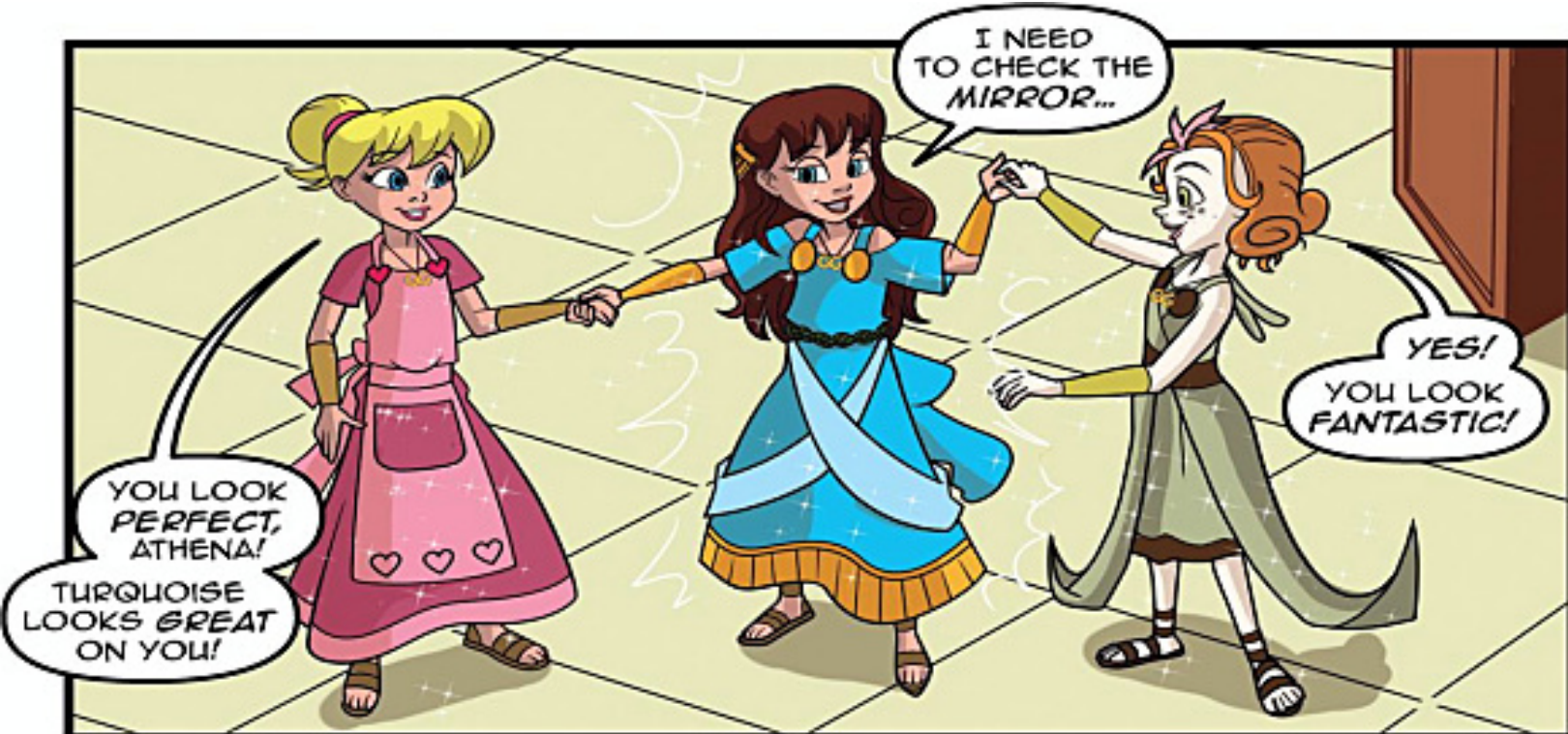
I KNEW
I HAD DONE A
GREAT JOB.

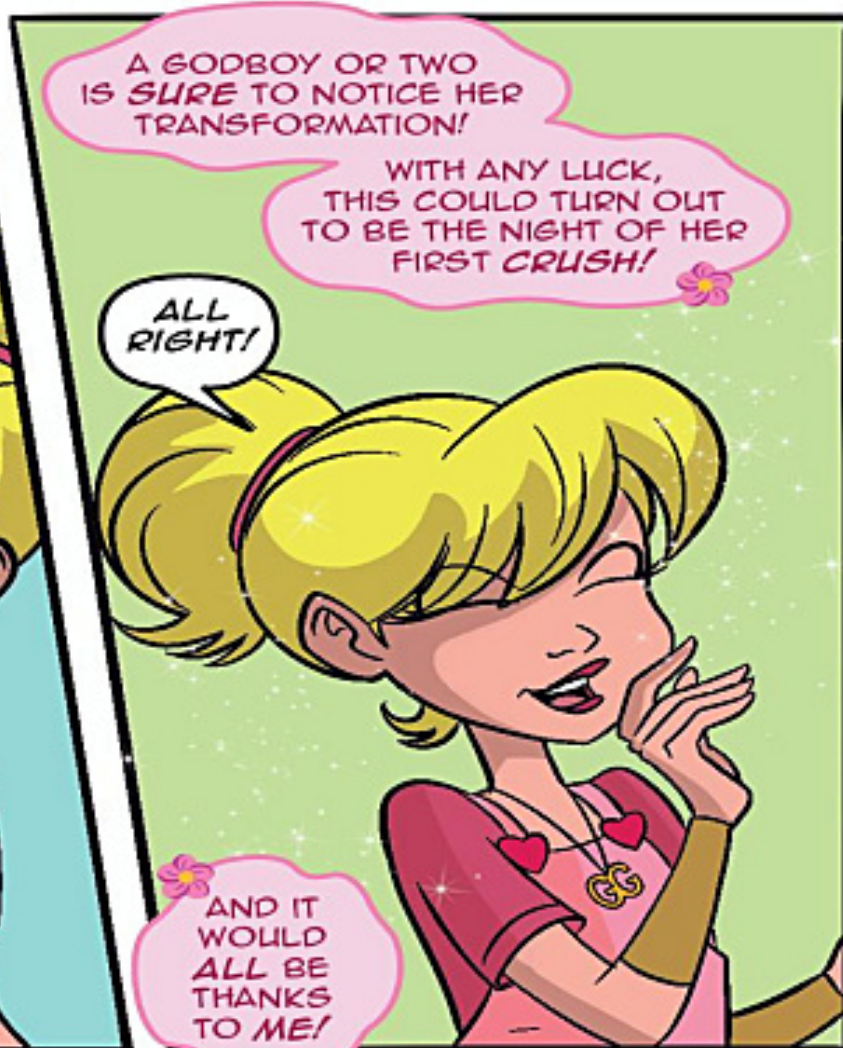
YET EVEN
I AM SURPRISED AT
HOW AMAZING ATHENA
LOOKS!

I'VE
OUTDONE MYSELF
THIS TIME!

SO...
...HOW DO
I LOOK?







CHAPTER THREE: PARTY TIME

HEY!
HI.
WOW!

APHRODITE,
ARE YOU THE ONE
WHO MADE
ATHENA LOOK SO
FABULOUS?

WOULDN'T
IT BE GREAT IF
THERE'S A BAND
PLAYING?

HEY, COULD
YOU DO MY HAIR
AND MAKEUP
SOMETIME?

UM...
SURE!

HELLO,
PANDORA!

MY REPLY
WORKS FOR ALL OF
HER QUESTIONS.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER MUCH WITH
PANDORA, ANYWAY.

SHE'S ALWAYS
SO BUSY ASKING
QUESTIONS...

...SHE RARELY PAYS
MUCH ATTENTION TO
THE ANSWERS!

THE MUSIC
AND THE LAUGHTER
ARE LOUD, THE
DANCING IS FULL-ON,
AND EVERYONE'S
HAVING FUN.

ANOTHER GREAT
PARTY FIT FOR THE GODS—
AND GODDESSES!

...SO I TOLD
HIM, "YOU'RE IN
A WORLD OF
TROUBLE!"

...THEN SHE
ASKED ME IF I
WAS IN CHARGE OF
THE FOOD!

HEY—
PERSEPHONE!

I BRACE
MYSELF FOR
THE WAVE OF
ATTENTION...

...AND HERE
IT COMES!

GORGEOUS!

WOW!

SWEET!

WHO'S
THAT?

WAIT, WHAT?

IF HE COULDN'T CLEARLY SEE IT'S ME, I'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR HIM.

HI, ARES!

SO...

...WHO'S THAT NEW GIRL?

IS ARES JOKING?

I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE!

NO—THEY'RE ALL LOOKING AT ATHENA!

ARES HAS NEVER PAID ANY ATTENTION TO ATHENA...

...SO I'M NOT SURPRISED HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE HER.

HEY, GODDESSGIRL!

I DID A GREAT JOB WITH MY MAKEOVER.

SO WHY
DOES MY CHEST
FEEL SO TIGHT?



SURELY
I CAN'T BE...
JEALOUS OF
ONE OF MY BEST
FRIENDS?

OVER A
GODBOY?



UM, HELLO,
APHRODITE!

HUH?
WHAT?

OH.
HI.

ENJOYING
THE PARTY...?



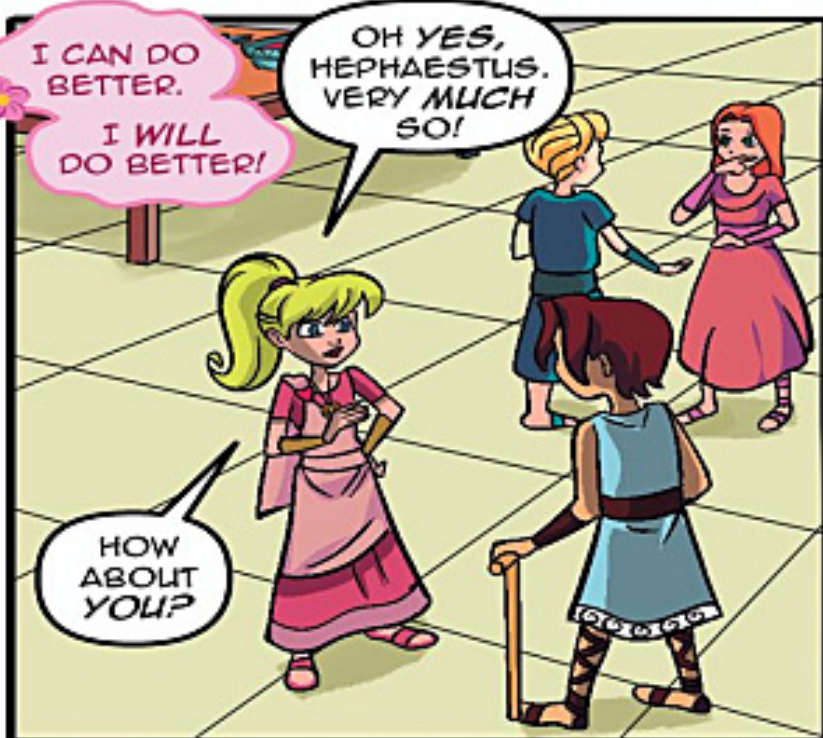
OH NO. I DIDN'T
MEAN TO SOUND SO
DISAPPOINTED.

I CAN DO
BETTER.

I WILL
DO BETTER!

OH YES,
HEPHAESTUS.
VERY MUCH
SO!

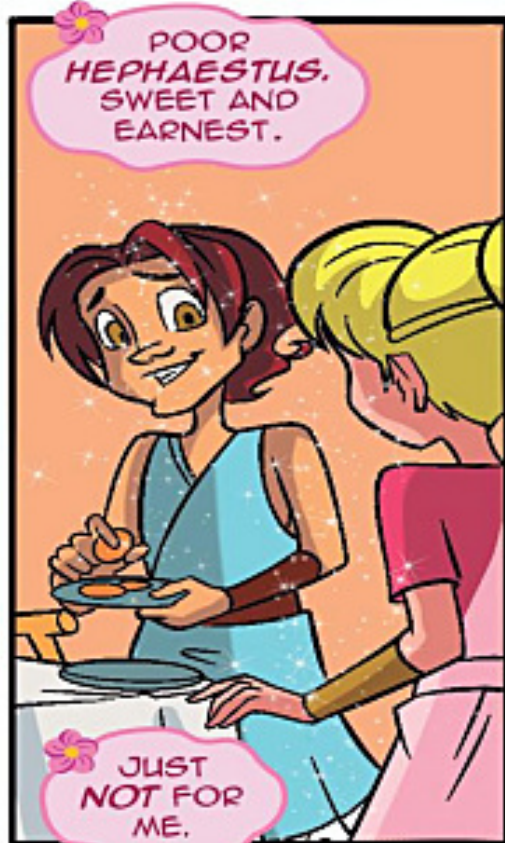
HOW
ABOUT
YOU?



IT'S MUCH
BETTER...

...NOW
THAT YOU'RE
HERE!





THANKS TO ME, ALL
THE GOODBOYS' EYES ARE
ON ATHENA TONIGHT!

I DIDN'T
KNOW MORTALS
COULD DO SO MUCH
WITH THOSE OLIVES
YOU INVENTED,
THEENY.

THAT'S
SO COOL!

CAN
I GET YOU
SOMETHING TO
DRINK?

WHAT DOES IT
MEAN THAT ARES
IS USING ATHENA'S
NICKNAME?

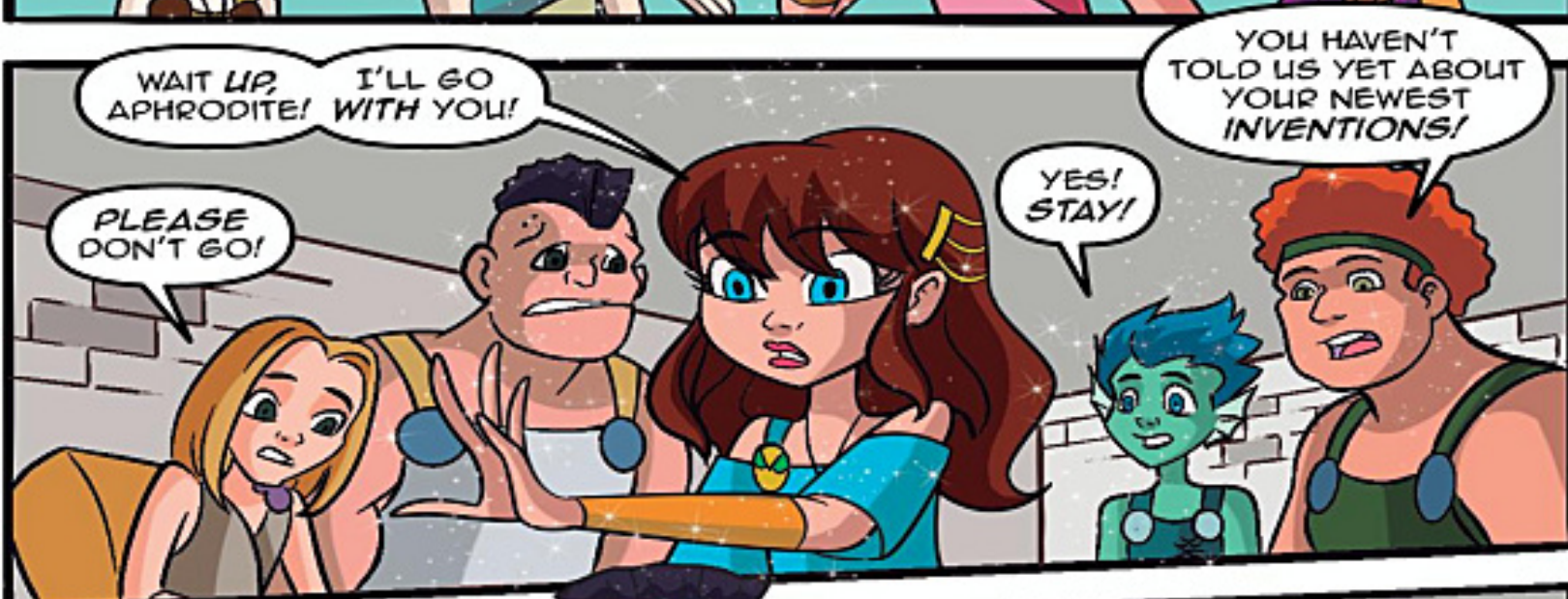
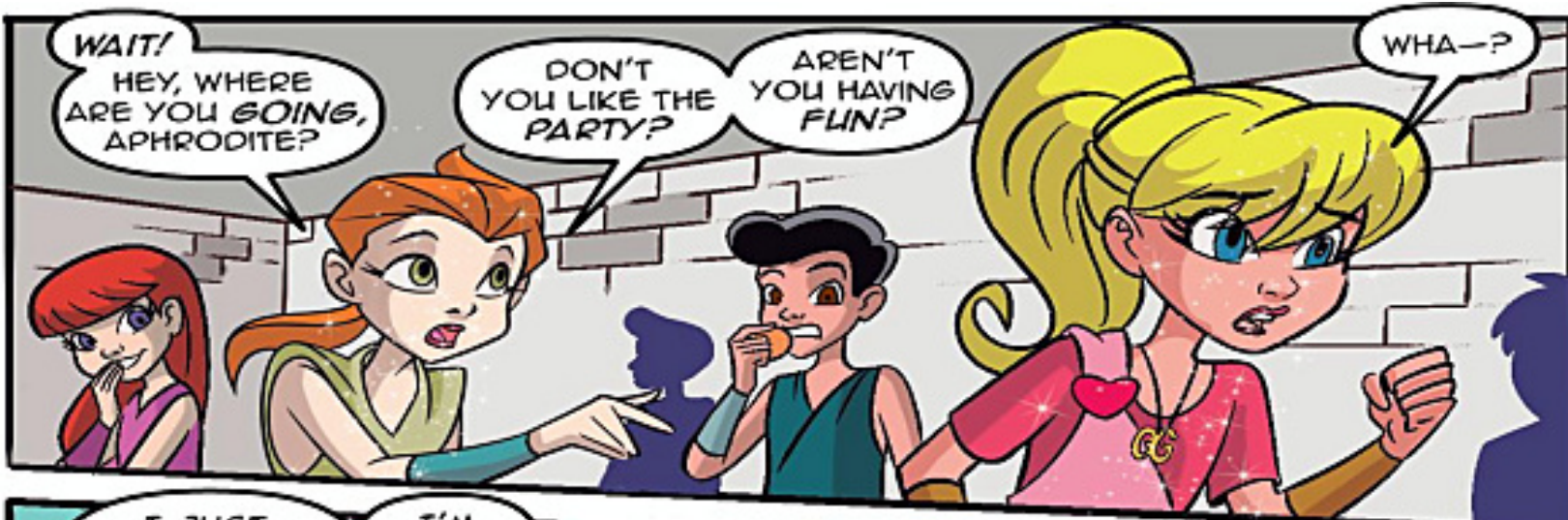
I WANT TO
HEAR MORE ABOUT
THE TOWN THE GREEK
MORTALS NAMED
AFTER YOU.

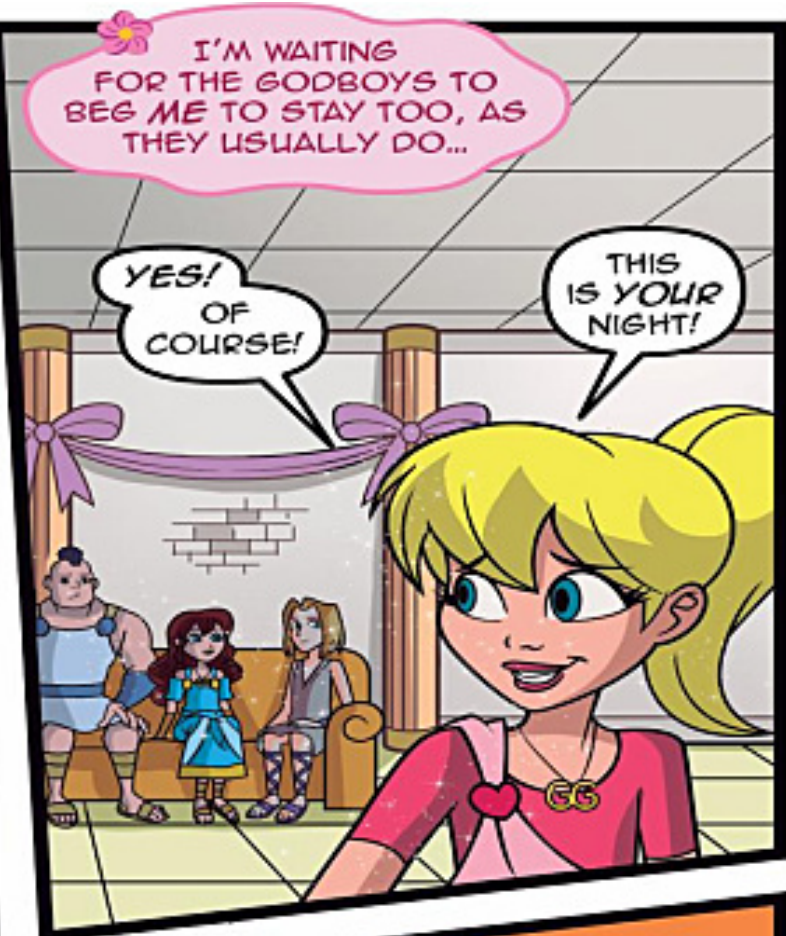
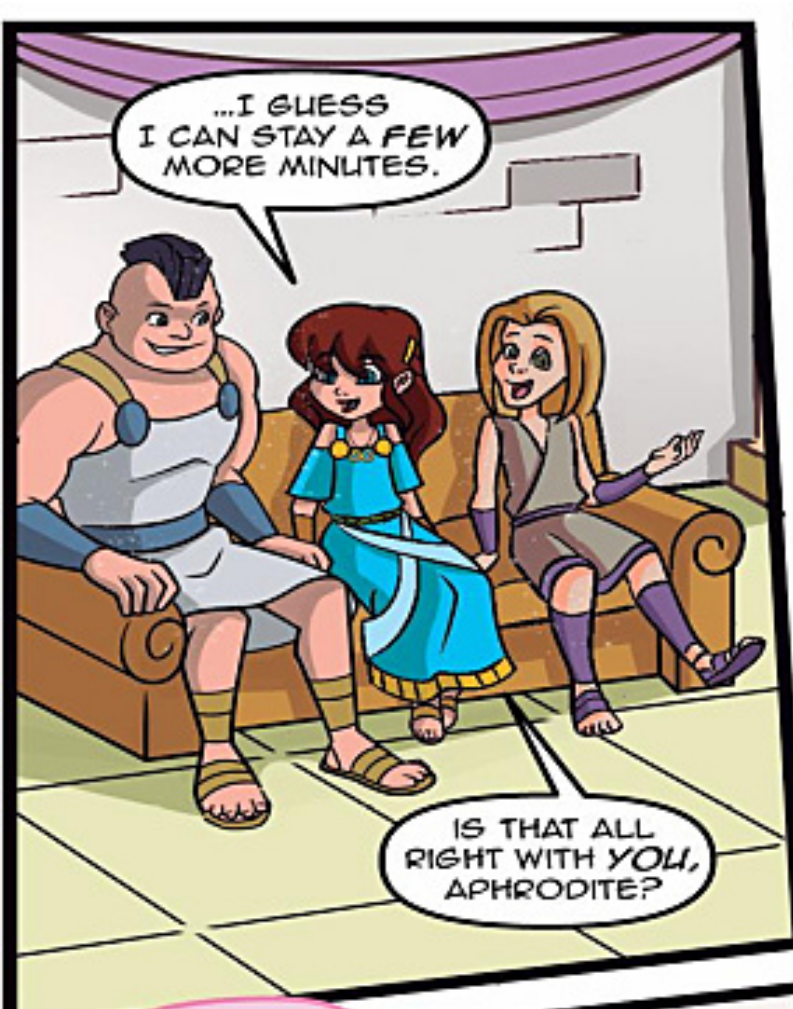
ATHENA CAN
HAVE ANY CRUSH
SHE WANTS...

WELL...

...BUT NOT
ARES!

APHRODITE...?







QUITE
A **DISPLAY**
FOR A GIRL JUST
RELEASED FROM
HER **PRISON**.

I'M SURE
PRINCIPAL ZEUS
WILL BE **HAPPY**
TO SHOVE YOU
BACK INSIDE...

DROP
AND **COVER**,
BOYS!

HOW
ABOUT
THAT?

HA-HA-HA!

...BECAUSE
MORTALS RAN AWAY
SCREAMING WHEN
YOU DIDN'T **SHIELD**
YOUR POWER IN
PUBLIC.



NOW
MOVE SO
I CAN GET
BY.

HEH. WHY,
CERTAINLY!
I MEAN...



...FAR BE IT
FROM ME TO
ADD
TO YOUR TROUBLES,
BUBBLES!

I WANTED GODBOYS
TO NOTICE ATHENA, BUT I
DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO
IGNORE ME!

KNOW
SOMETHING?

I THINK
I LIKED YOU
BETTER AS A
STATUE!

HA-HA-HA-HA

SOB!

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

THIS WASN'T AT
ALL WHAT I'D IMAGINED
WOULD HAPPEN.

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

HOW CAN
THINGS HAVE GONE
SO WRONG?

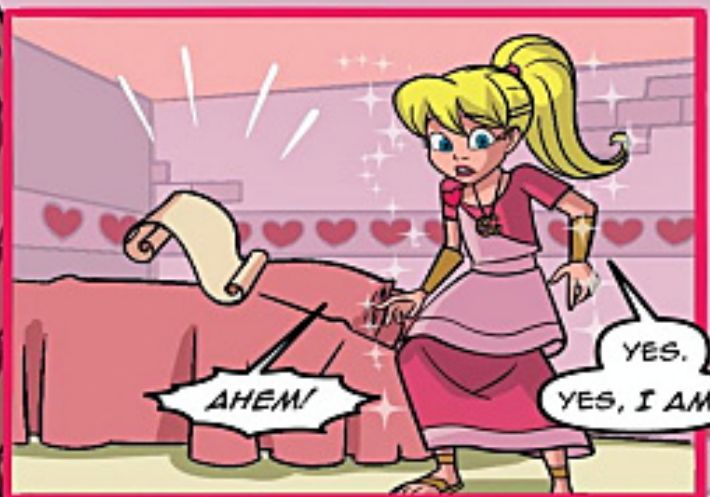
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE



WHOOOSH!

ART THOU
APHRODITE,
GODDESSGIRL
OF LOVE?

YIPE!
WOW!



AHEM!

YES.
YES, I AM.

THE MORTAL
HIPPOMENES
PETITIONS THEE
FOR HELP

THUMP



WHO IS
HIPPOMENES?

WHAT
COULD HE
POSSIBLY...

...OH.

FLIP

FLIP
FLIP

DEAR APHRODITE, IMMORTAL GODDESS
AND CHAMPION OF LOVERS,

PLEASE HEAR MY PLEA. I AM IN LOVE WITH
A BEAUTIFUL MORTAL MAIDEN NAMED
ATALANTA.

I WISH TO MARRY HER, BUT SHE HAS
VOWED TO TAKE AS HUSBAND ONLY THE
YOUTH WHO BESTS HER IN A RACE, AND
SHE IS VERY FLEET OF FOOT.

HER FATHER, KING SCHOENEUS, HAS MADE
A LAW THAT THOSE SEEKING HER HAND
WHO LOSE AGAINST HER SHALL ALSO LOSE
THEIR LIVES.

I AM PREPARED TO FORFEIT MY LIFE FOR
LOVE BUT WOULD REALLY RATHER NOT.

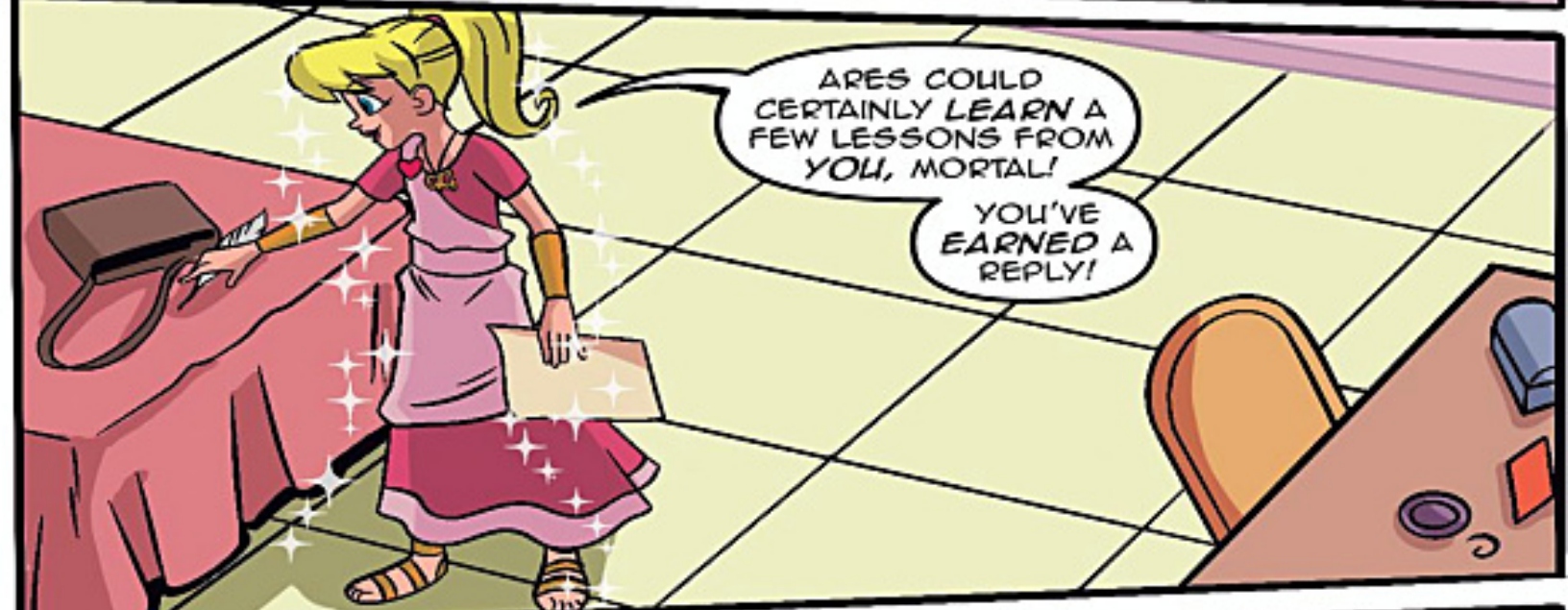
SO, I'M HOPING FOR YOUR DIVINE
ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.

YOUR DEVOTED FOLLOWER,
HIPPOMENES



Aphrodite, with blonde hair in a high ponytail and a pink heart on her forehead, is looking at a scroll. She has a tearful smile and is surrounded by sparkles. The background shows a window with shutters and a pink wall with heart decorations.

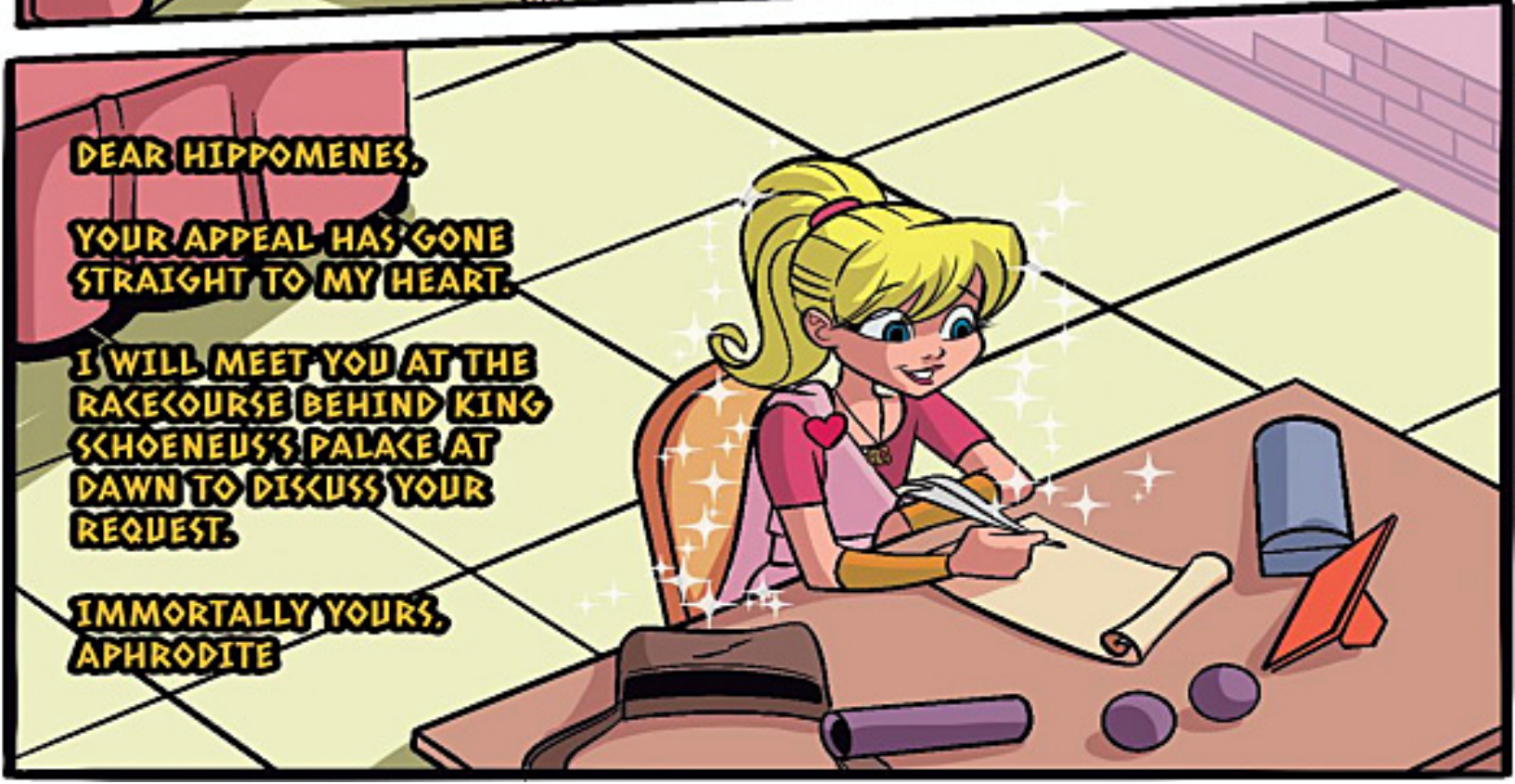
SIGH
HOW
ROMANTIC!



Aphrodite is walking across a tiled floor, carrying a scroll. She is wearing a pink dress and sandals. There are sparkles around her. In the background, there is a desk with a lamp and a chair.

ARES COULD
CERTAINLY LEARN A
FEW LESSONS FROM
YOU, MORTAL!

YOU'VE
EARNED A
REPLY!



Aphrodite is sitting at a desk, writing a letter. She is wearing a pink dress and sandals. There are sparkles around her. On the desk, there is a scroll, a lamp, and some other items.

DEAR HIPPOMENES,
YOUR APPEAL HAS GONE
STRAIGHT TO MY HEART.

I WILL MEET YOU AT THE
RACECOURSE BEHIND KING
SCHOENEUS'S PALACE AT
DAWN TO DISCUSS YOUR
REQUEST.

IMMORTALLY YOURS,
APHRODITE

MORTALS
EXPECT GODS AND
GODDESSES TO ISSUE
ORDERS.

HMMM...

IS THIS TOO
INFORMAL? NOT
COMMANDING
ENOUGH?

I CAN
FIX THIS!

PS
DON'T BE
LATE!

YUP,
THAT SHOULD
DO IT.

WITH
THE OLYMPIAN
TIME DIFFERENCE,
THAT WILL BE
TOMORROW
MORNING FOR
ME.

"BLOW,
WIND, BLOW.
OFF YOU
GO."

"DELIVER
THIS MESSAGE,
AND DON'T BE
SLOW."

SWOOOSH

WHOOOSH

CHAPTER FOUR: HIPPOMENES

NO
CLASSES
TODAY!

I WOULD
LOVE TO SLEEP IN,
BUT A PROMISE IS
A PROMISE!

YAWN

ONCE I WAKE
UP FULLY, I BELIEVE I'LL
ACTUALLY *ENJOY* HELPING
THIS MORTAL...

...WHO HAS A
GENUINE SENSE OF
ROMANCE IN HIS
HEART!



ARTEMIS'S
DOGS ARE PRETTY
ROWDY!

ARTEMIS?

RUFF! YAP!
RUFF! YAP!

SHE'S USUALLY
UP AT THE CRACK OF
DAWN WITH THEM!

PSSST!
ARTEMIS!

UP
LATE AT THE
PARTY?

I'LL TAKE
THEM OUT FOR
YOU!

NOK
NOK
NOK

RUFF!
RUFF!

AMBY!
NECTAR!
SUEZ!

SETTLE
DOWN! YOU'LL
WAKE THE ENTIRE
DORM!

WOOF!

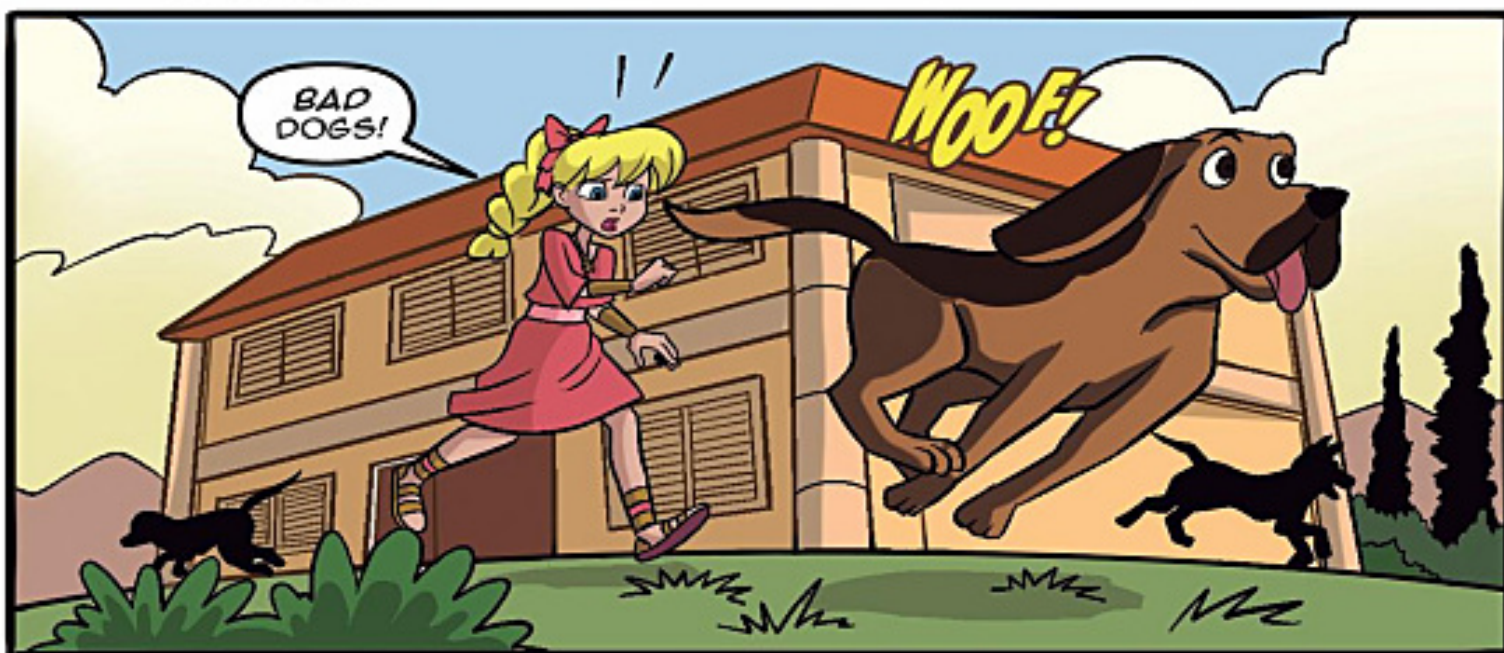
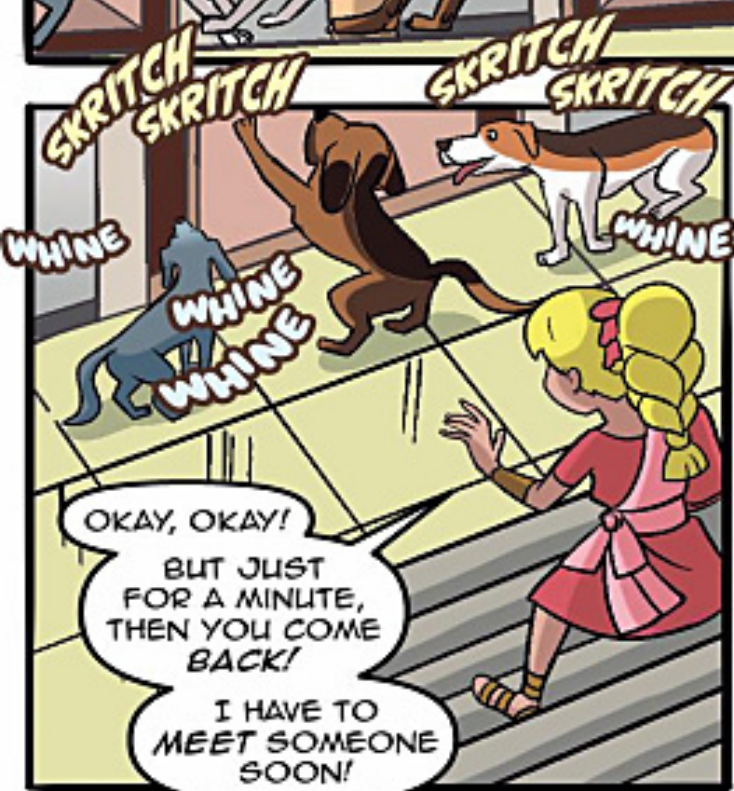
RUFF!
YAP!

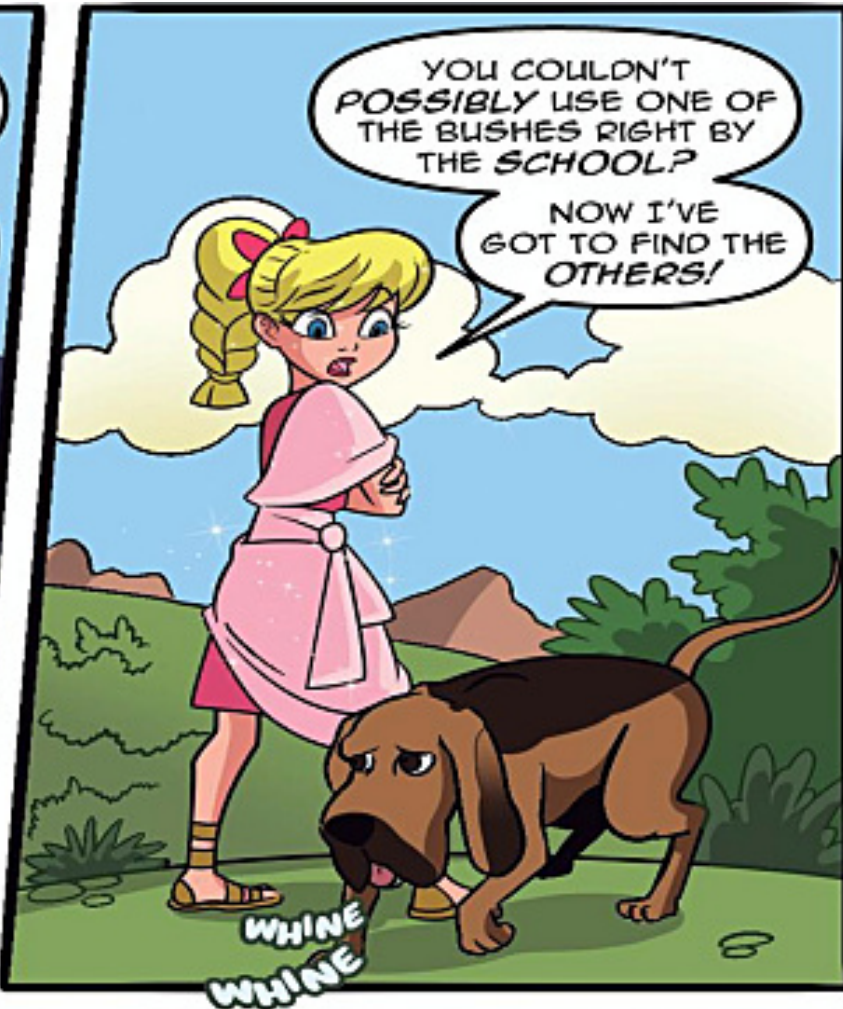
YAP!

HUH...?
WHA...?

MMMMPH!

FLUMP!





...SO YOU THREE
JUST HAVE TO COME
WITH ME!

WOOF! YIP!

RUFF!

HELLO
THERE, MORTAL!

YOU ARE
HIPPOMENES...?

YES!
FORGIVE ME
FOR STARING.

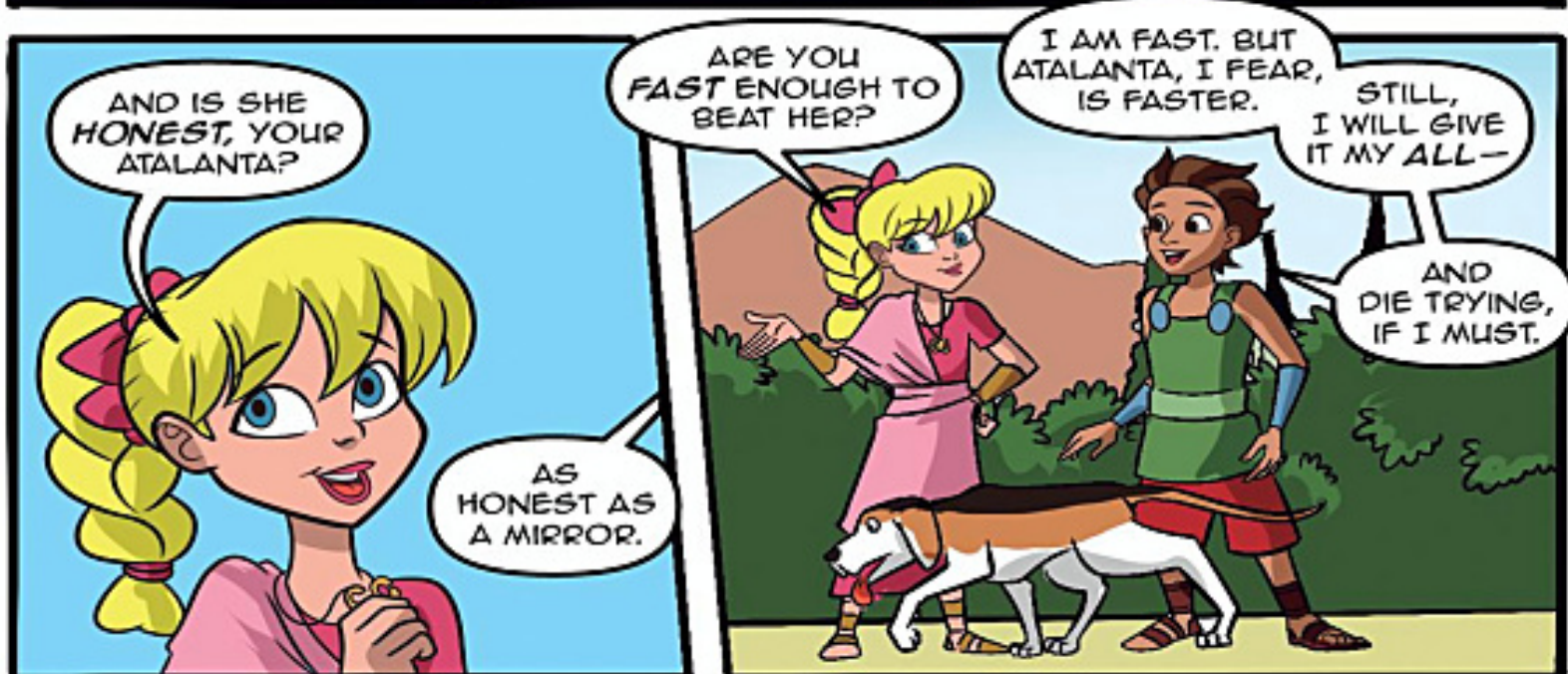
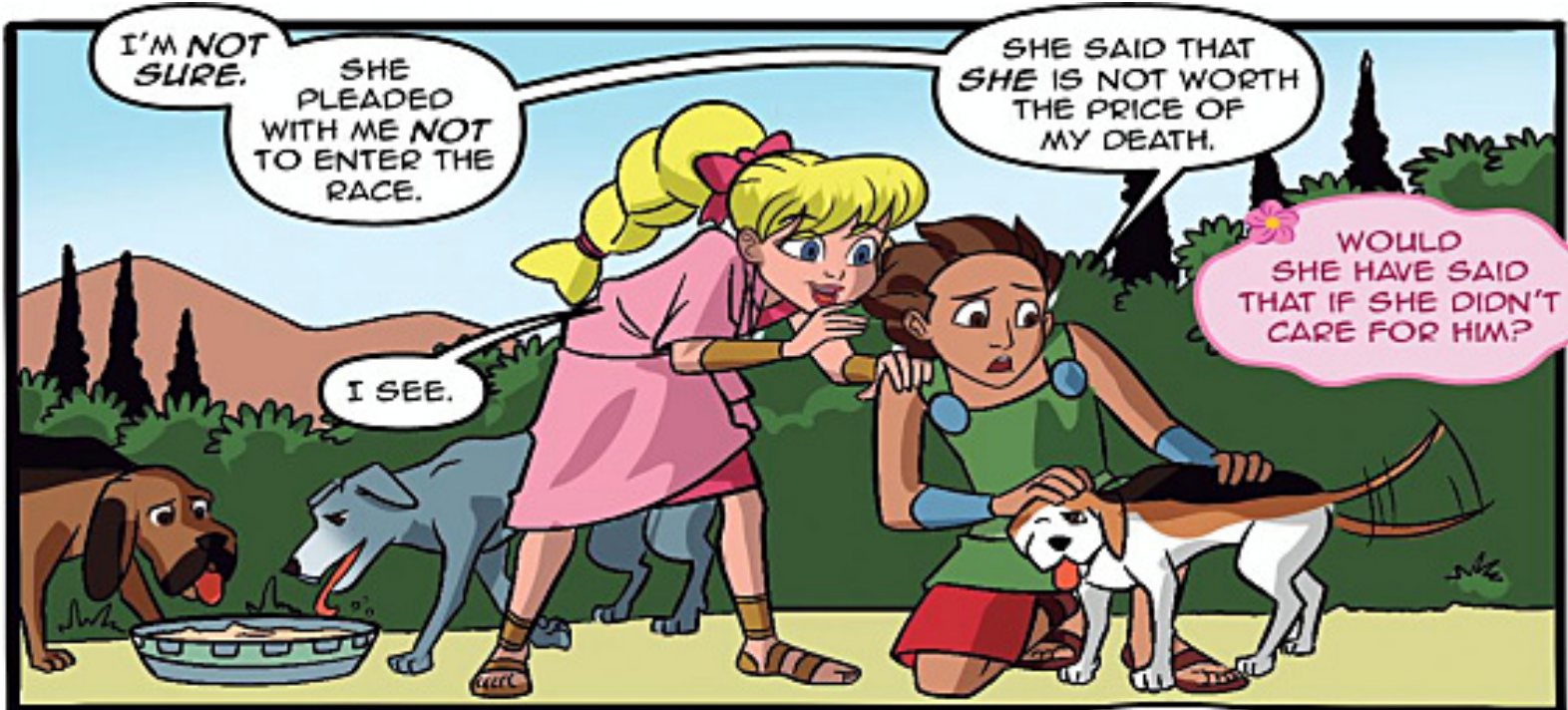
I'VE NEVER
MET A GODDESS
BEFORE.

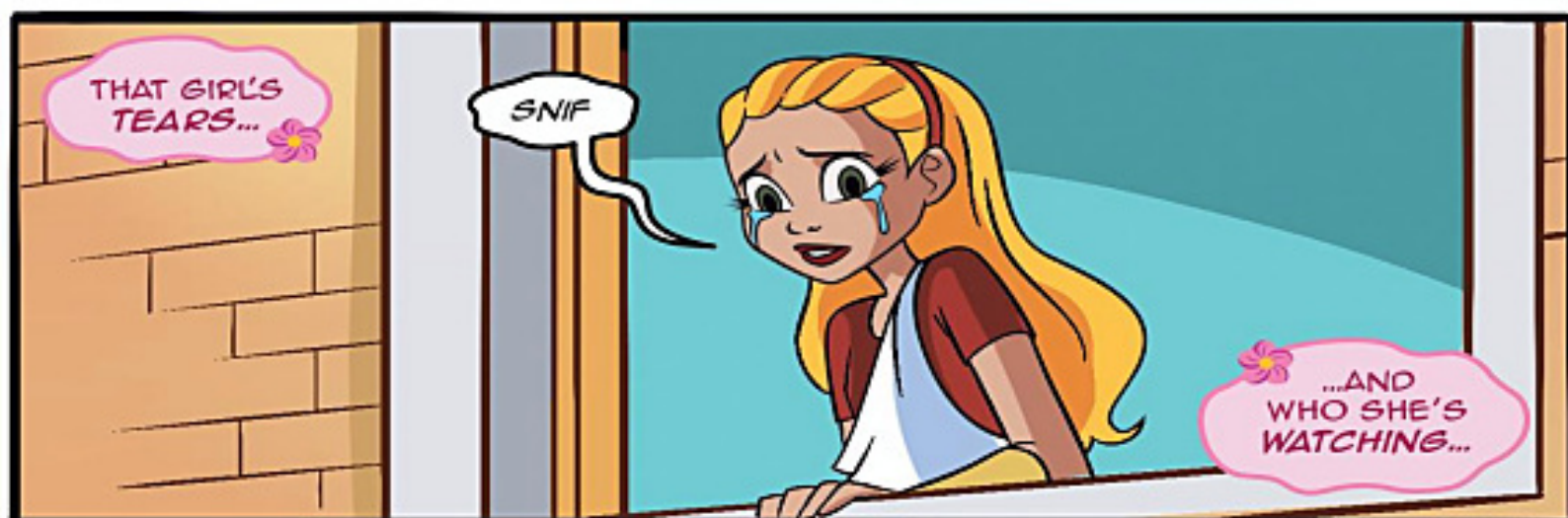
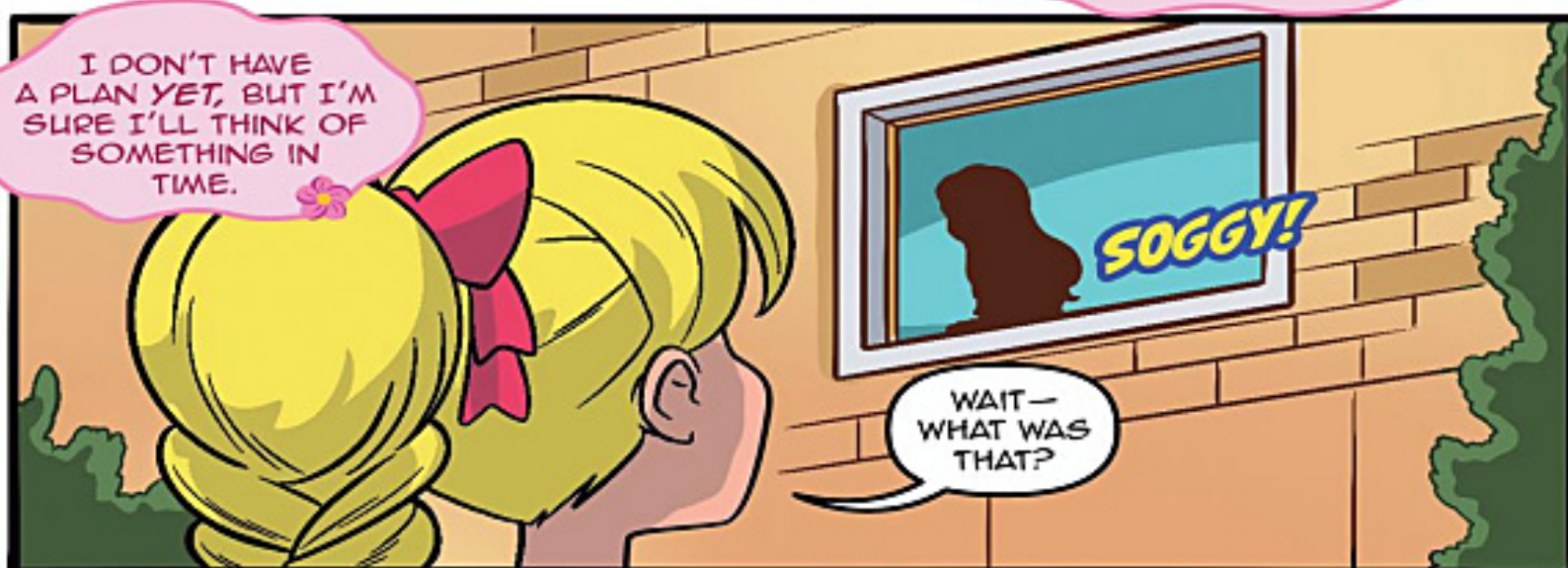
YOU MUST
BE ARTEMIS.
I WAS
EXPECTING
APHRODITE!

WOOF!

YIP YIP YIP!









I REALLY SHOULD GET THESE DOGS BACK UP TO ARTEMIS.

OH. ALL RIGHT.

BUT COULD YOU WALK ME BACK TO THE DORM?

YES!

YES, I'D LOVE TO!

IT'S REALLY NICE TO TALK TO YOU ALL BY YOURSELF WITHOUT YOUR ENTOURAGE OF...UM...

...I MEAN YOU'RE SO SWEET TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOU WHEN YOU'RE...

NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS TALKING TO ME, HEPHAESTUS.

I WON'T BITE MUCH. I PROMISE!

HE REALLY IS SWEET AND ADMIRING...

...AND I FIND HIM VERY EASY TO TALK TO.

BEFORE LONG, I TELL HIM ALL ABOUT THE PROBLEM I NEED TO SOLVE FOR HIPPOMENES!

THE THING IS, I WANT TO HELP HIPPOMENES, BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW!

OF COURSE YOU'LL THINK OF SOMETHING, APHRODITE.

YOU'RE VERY CLEVER!

I'M USED TO COMPLIMENTS ABOUT MY LOOKS, BUT NO GODBOY HAS EVER TOLD ME I WAS **CLEVER**.

WHY, THANK YOU!

AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO **HELP** YOU WITH THIS, YOU HAVE ONLY TO **ASK!**

THAT'S SO NICE OF YOU.

I'LL KEEP YOUR OFFER IN MIND.

THOUGH I CAN'T THINK OF ANY REASON I'D HAVE TO TAKE HIM UP ON IT.

SUDDENLY I REMEMBER HOW I LEFT **HEPHAESTUS** AT THE PARTY!

IT'S OKAY, REALLY.

I SAW YOU WERE DISTRACTED AND UPSET.

I KNEW YOU WEREN'T UPSET WITH ME.

OMIGODDESS, I JUST NOW REALIZED THAT I LEFT YOU STANDING AT THE PARTY WITH OUR **SNACKS!**

SNIF
SNIF
YAP!

OH, GOOD!

ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN LAST NIGHT AFTER I LEFT?

I DON'T KNOW. I LEFT RIGHT AFTER YOU DID!

Nok
Nok
Nok

THE PARTY! ALL MY THOUGHTS COME FLOODING BACK.

I GOT SO UPSET JUST BECAUSE ARES FLIRTS WITH ATHENA!

FLIRTING DOESN'T MEAN A THING.

WHAT? I DIDN'T HEAR YOU.

SORRY, JUST THINKING ALOUD.

YOUR BLACKSMITHING'S QUITE A THING.

THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL CANE.

THANK YOU. I LOVE FORGING THINGS FROM METAL!

IT'S SO SATISFYING TO TRANSFORM A BORING LUMP OF IRON ORE INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL!

I GET THE SAME FEELING DOING A MAKEOVER—LIKE I DID WITH ATHENA LAST NIGHT.

YOU USE METALS. I USE MAKEUP!

YOU REMEMBERED THAT I'M A BLACKSMITH!

OF COURSE! WHY WOULDN'T I? HEADING UP?

I'M GOING TO KEEP WALKING. GOOD FOR MY LEGS.

I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU.

ME TOO!

CHAPTER FIVE: GONE SHOPPING

IT'S PAST TEN
O'CLOCK, BUT I MADE IT
BACK BEFORE ARTEMIS
WAS OUT OF BED!

YOU TOOK
THEM OUT FOR
ME?

SLURP!

RUFF!

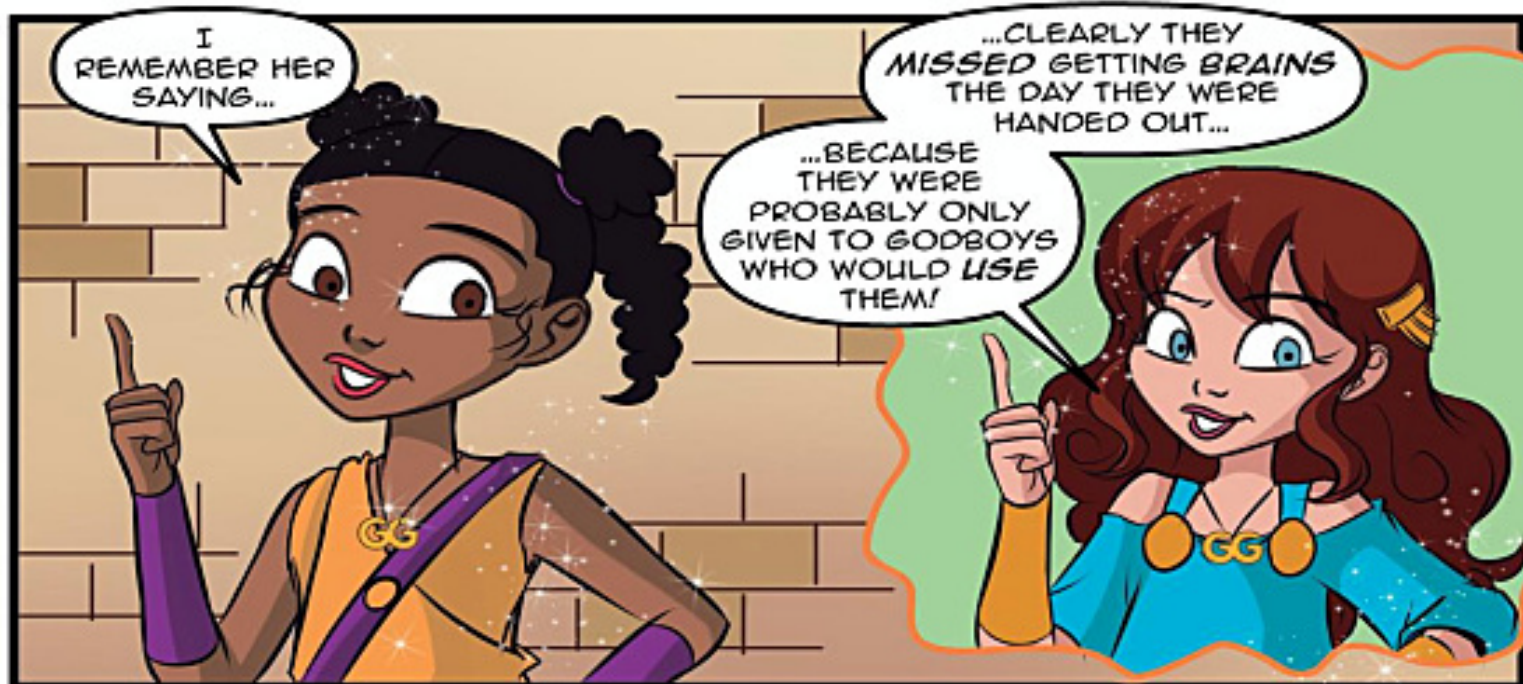
ARF!
WOOF!

OF
COURSE!

IT LOOKED
LIKE YOU NEEDED
TO SLEEP IN.

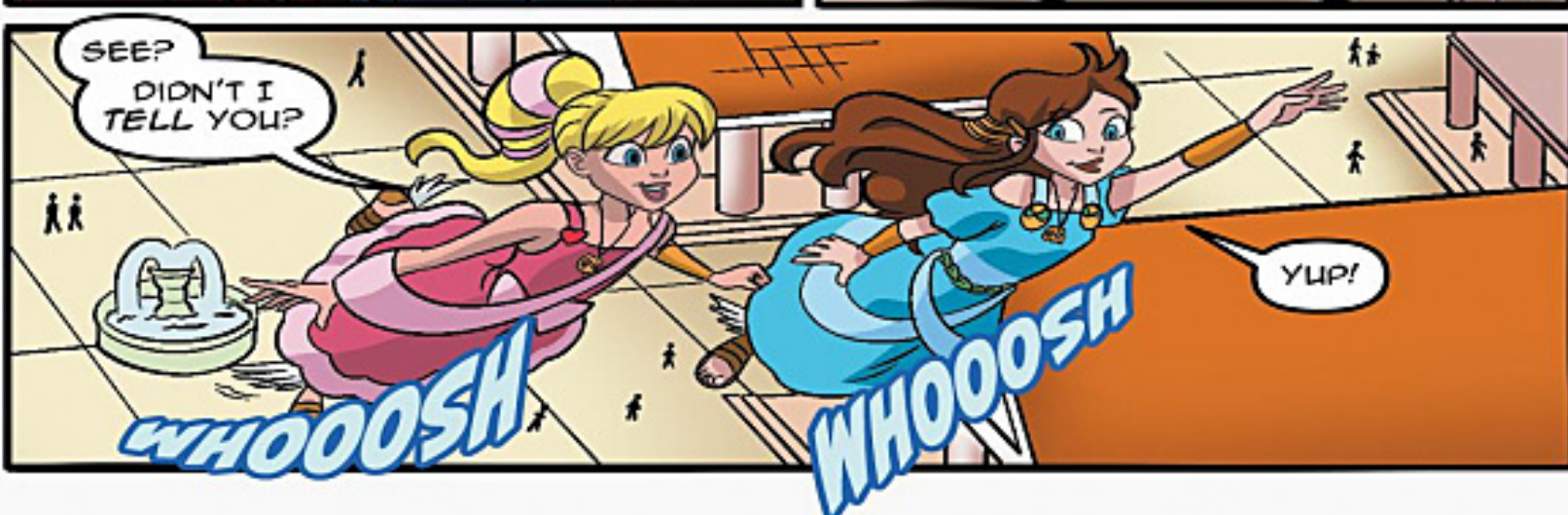
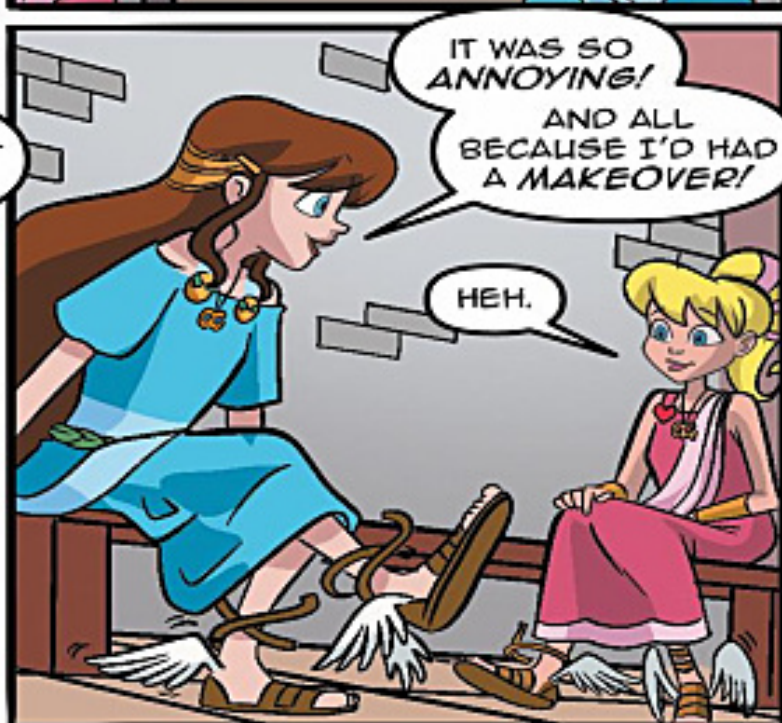
GOOD
PARTY?

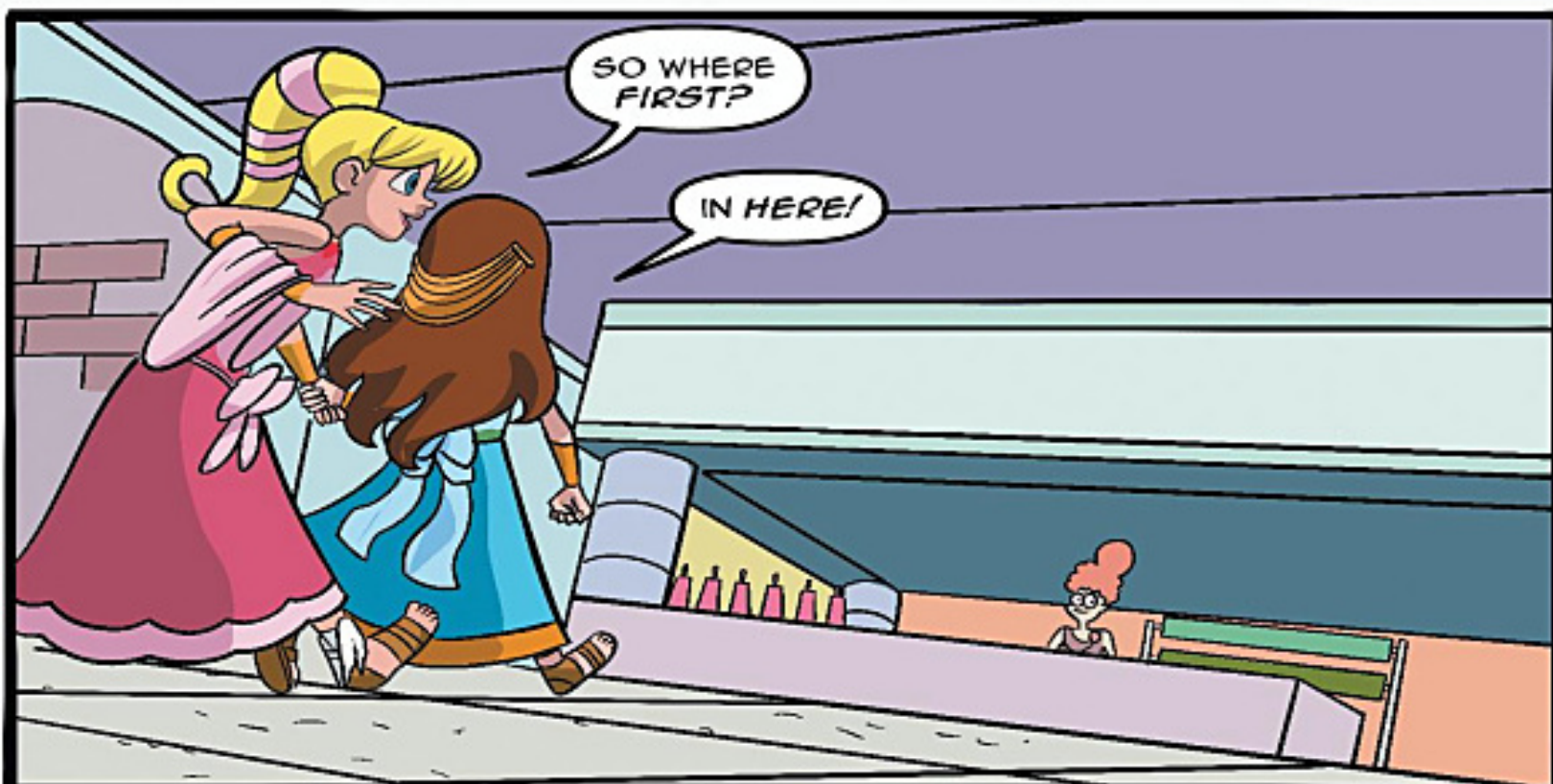
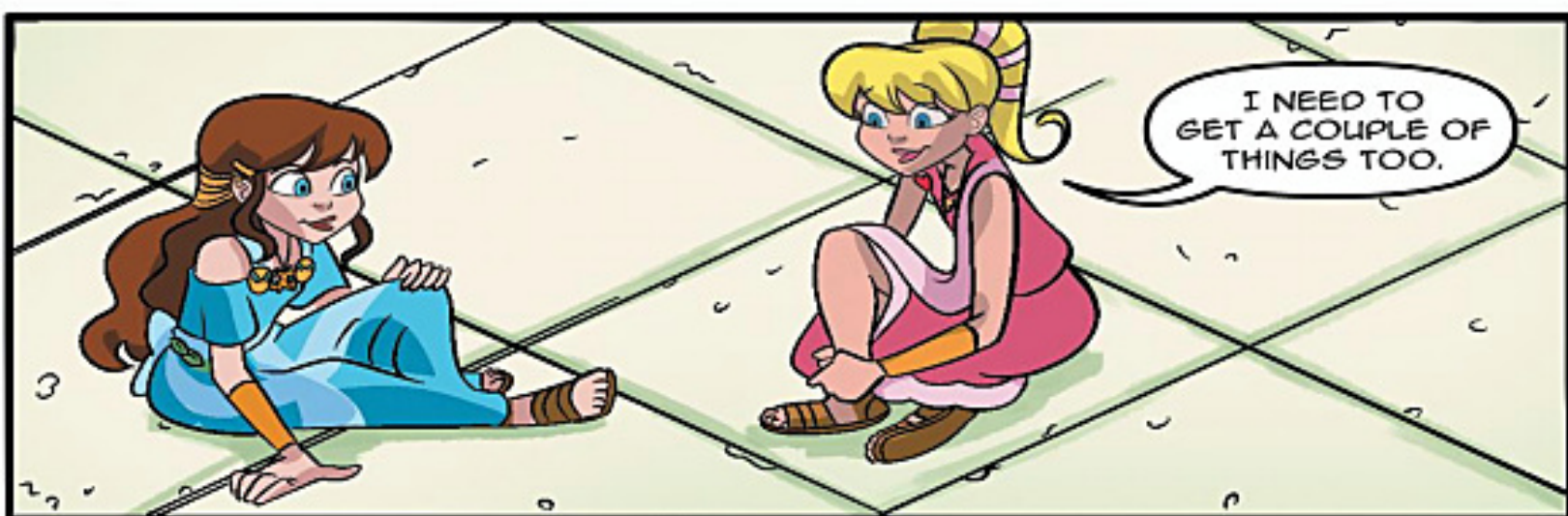
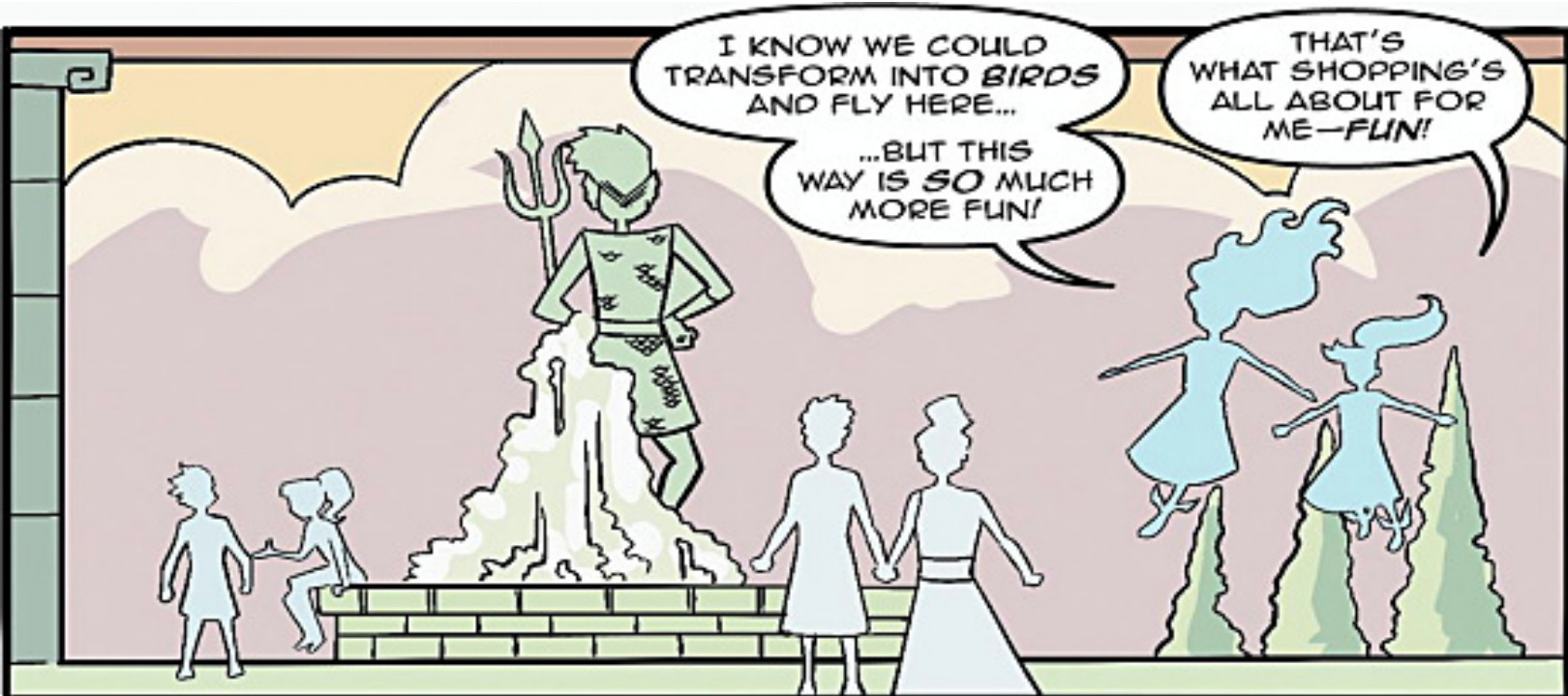
LONG
NIGHT?



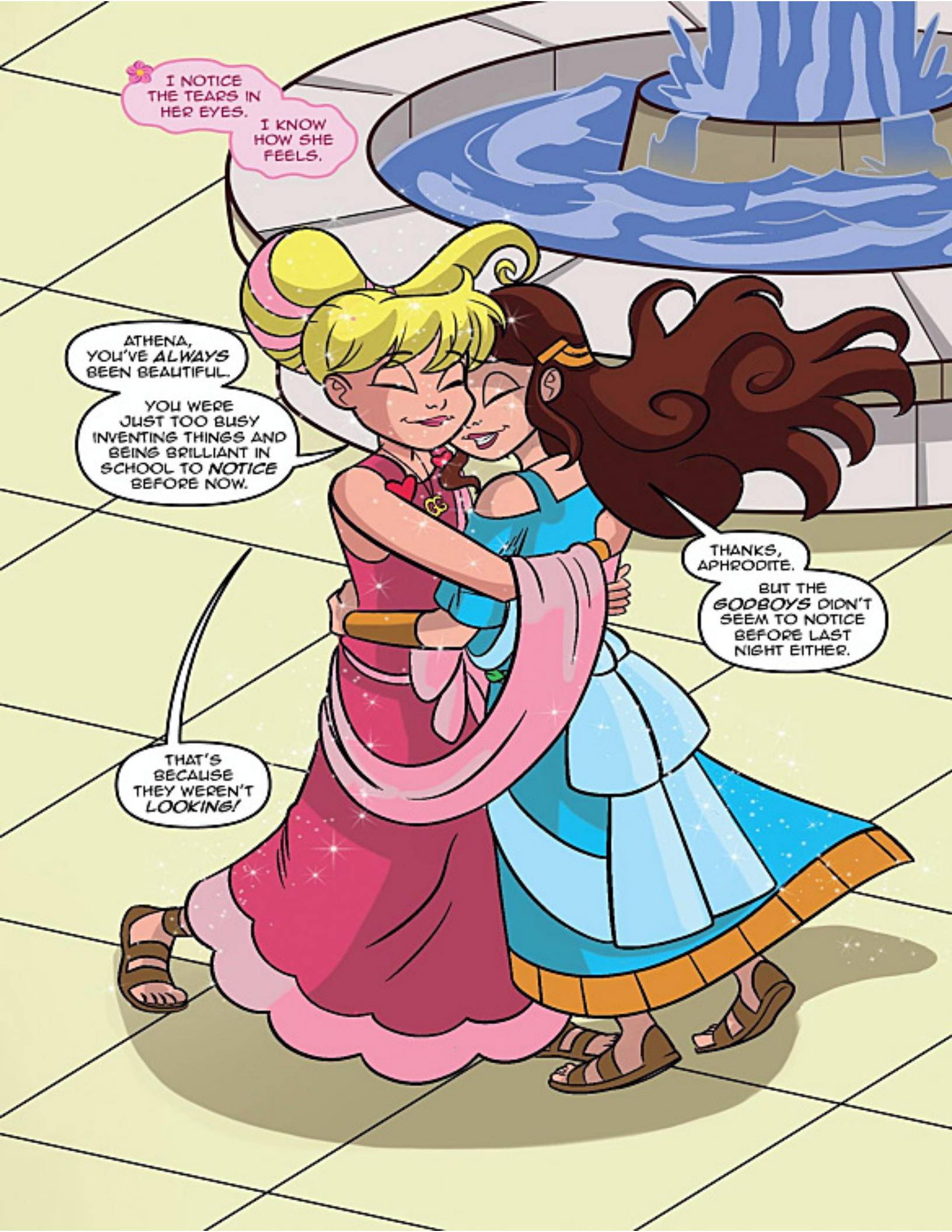










A comic panel featuring two female characters, Athena and Aphrodite, in a warm embrace. Athena, on the left, has blonde hair in a high ponytail with a pink and yellow bow, wearing a pink dress with a heart-shaped brooch. Aphrodite, on the right, has long brown hair and wears a blue dress with a pink shawl. They are standing on a tiled floor next to a stone fountain with blue water. The scene is filled with soft sparkles.

I NOTICE
THE TEARS IN
HER EYES.

I KNOW
HOW SHE
FEELS.

ATHENA,
YOU'VE ALWAYS
BEEN BEAUTIFUL.

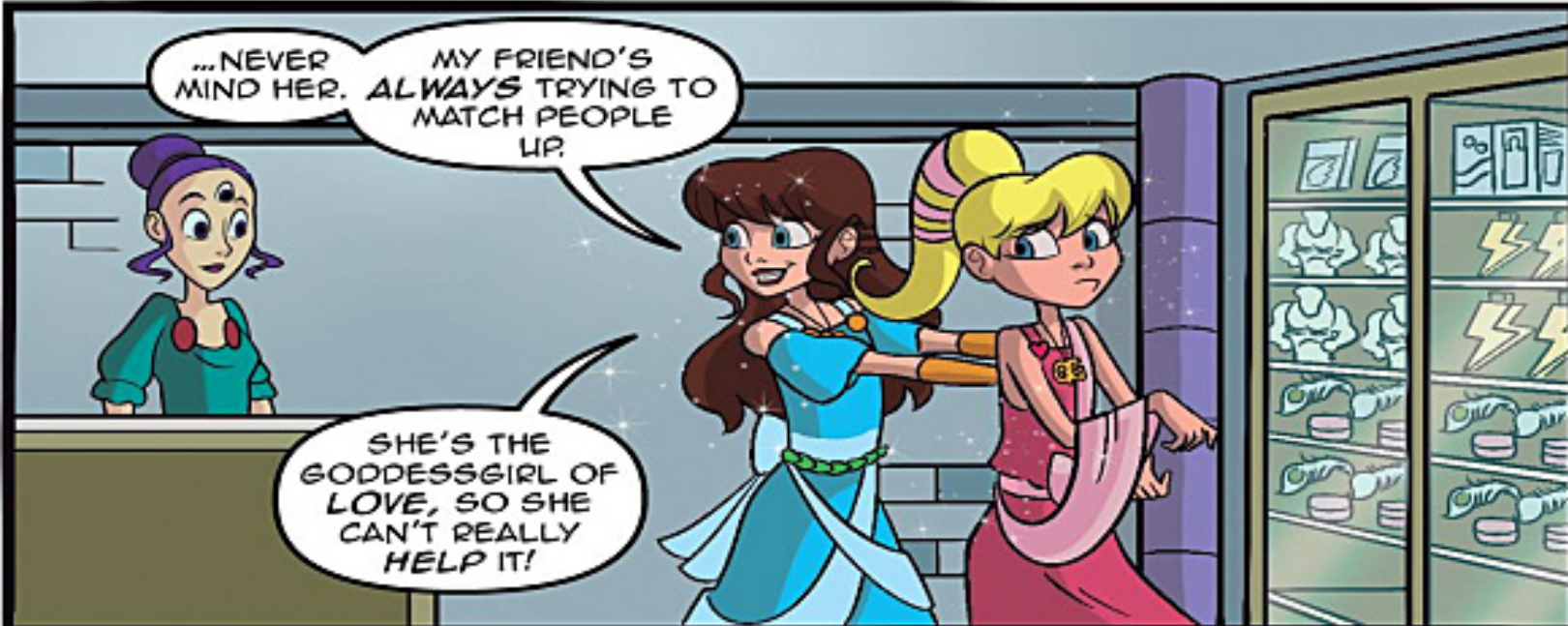
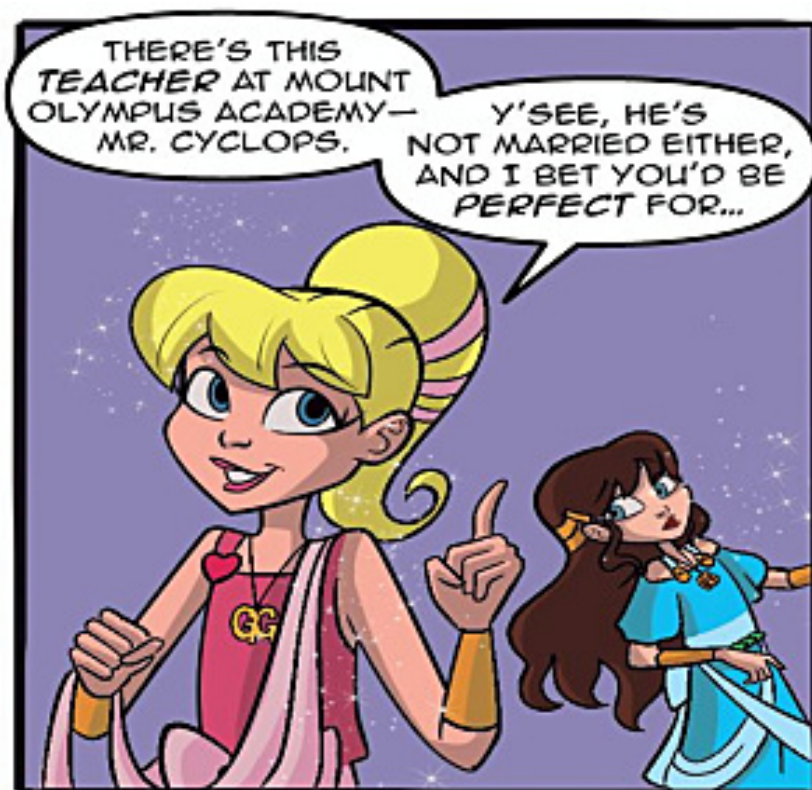
YOU WERE
JUST TOO BUSY
INVENTING THINGS AND
BEING BRILLIANT IN
SCHOOL TO NOTICE
BEFORE NOW.

THAT'S
BECAUSE
THEY WEREN'T
LOOKING!

THANKS,
APHRODITE.

BUT THE
GODBOYS DIDN'T
SEEM TO NOTICE
BEFORE LAST
NIGHT EITHER.





PLEASE PLEASE
PLEASE TELL ME YOU
DIDN'T THINK THAT CLERK
WOULD BE PERFECT FOR
MR. CYCLOPS...

...BECAUSE
SHE HAS THREE
EYES, AND MR
CYCLOPS HAS
ONLY ONE!

I ADMIT IT
WAS THE FIRST
THING I THOUGHT
OF!

ALSO,
SHE HAS LOTS
OF HAIR, AND MR.
CYCLOPS IS
BALD.

SO
OPPOSITES
ATTRACT!

YEAH...
SO...?

NOT ALWAYS,
BUT I DO NEED TO
MENTION THE CLERK
TO MR. CYCLOPS!

ME...
...MR.
CYCLOPS?...
HA-HA-HA!

YOU'LL NEVER
GUESS WHAT HAPPENED
AFTER I GOT BACK TO MY
ROOM LAST NIGHT.

OOOH—
TELL ME!

WELL, THIS MORTAL NAMED **HIPPOMENES** SENT ME A MESSAGE, ASKING—

HEY!
OVER
HERE!

HI, GIRLS!



WOW! I DEFINITELY HAVE A MEGA-CRUSH ON **ARES**!

BUT I NEED TO PAY HIM BACK FOR LAST NIGHT'S TREACHERY— AND IGNORE HIM.

HI THERE, **POSEIDON**! LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE SHOPPING FOR SHIELDS!

HEY, YEAH!



CHECK THIS OUT! SEE HOW POLISHED, CURVED, SMOOTH?

IT'LL CUT THROUGH THE WATER WITHOUT DRAGGING ME BACK!

IT'S REALLY NICE...

ATHENA, YOU'VE GOTTA CHECK THIS OUT!



WHAT? **ARES** HASN'T EVEN NOTICED THAT I'M IGNORING HIM!

HE DOESN'T
EVEN CARE!

MY NEW BOW!
YOU INSPIRED
ME, ATHENA!

I'M TAKING UP
ARCHERY. IT'LL BE
A GREAT SKILL FOR
BATTLE!

THIS IS
EXCELLENT,
ARES...

...WELL BALANCED
AND THE RIGHT SIZE AND
WEIGHT FOR SOMEONE AS
STRONG AS YOU.

I KNOW,
RIGHT?

BUT IT'S
ARTEMIS WHO IS
INTO ARCHERY,
NOT ME.

OH? UM,
WELL...

SAY, I LIKE
YOUR CHITON.
IS IT NEW?

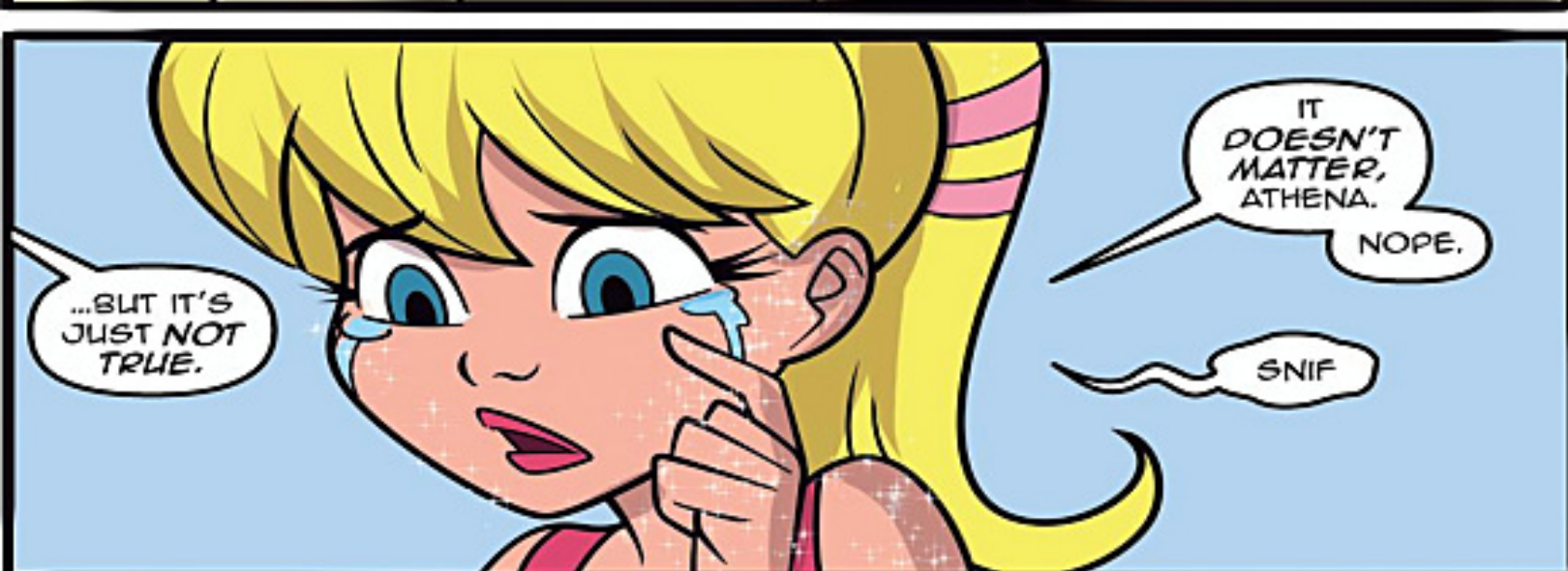
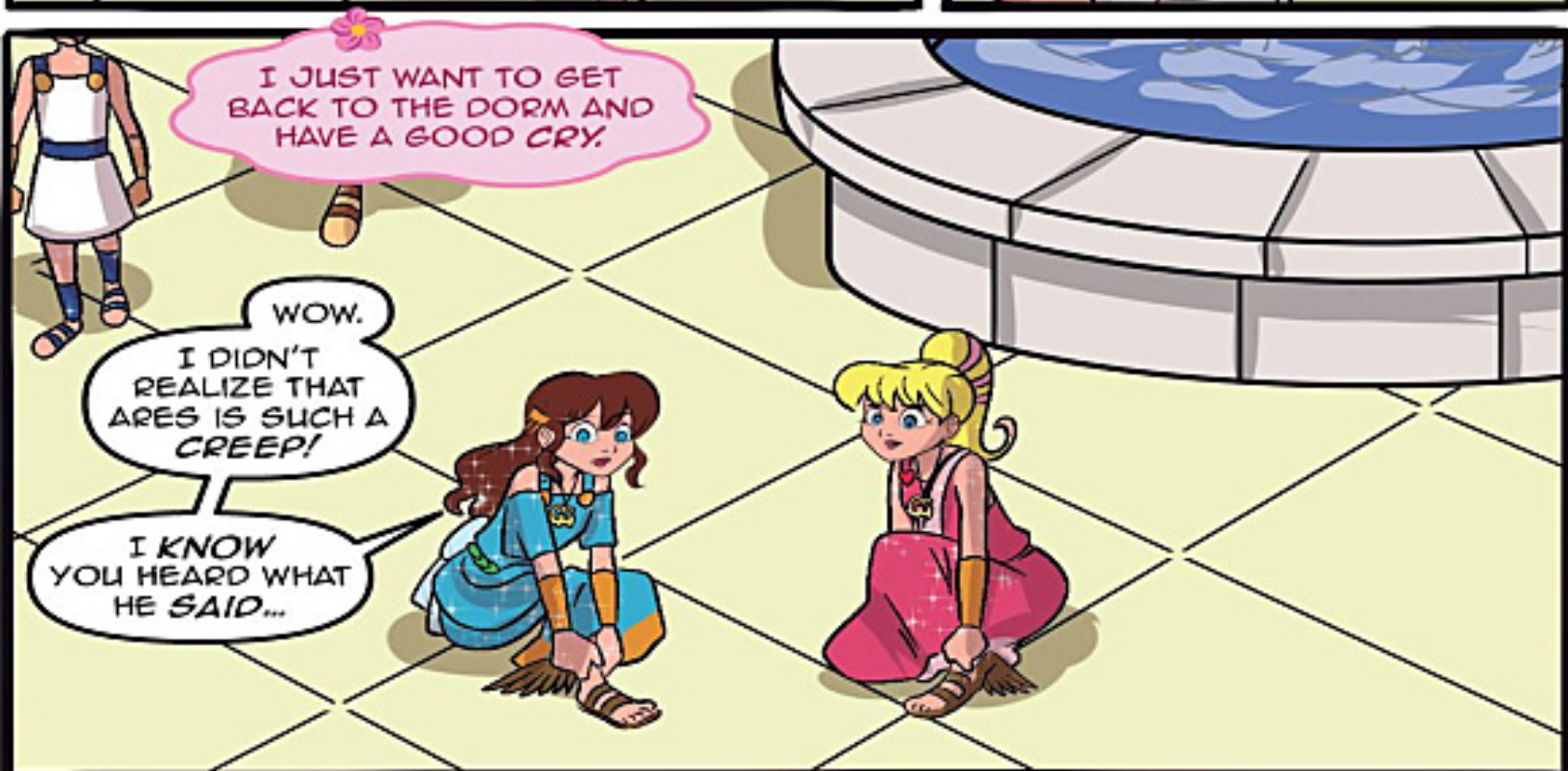
HOW LIKE HIM
NOT TO RECOGNIZE
THAT ATHENA WORE
THAT LAST NIGHT!

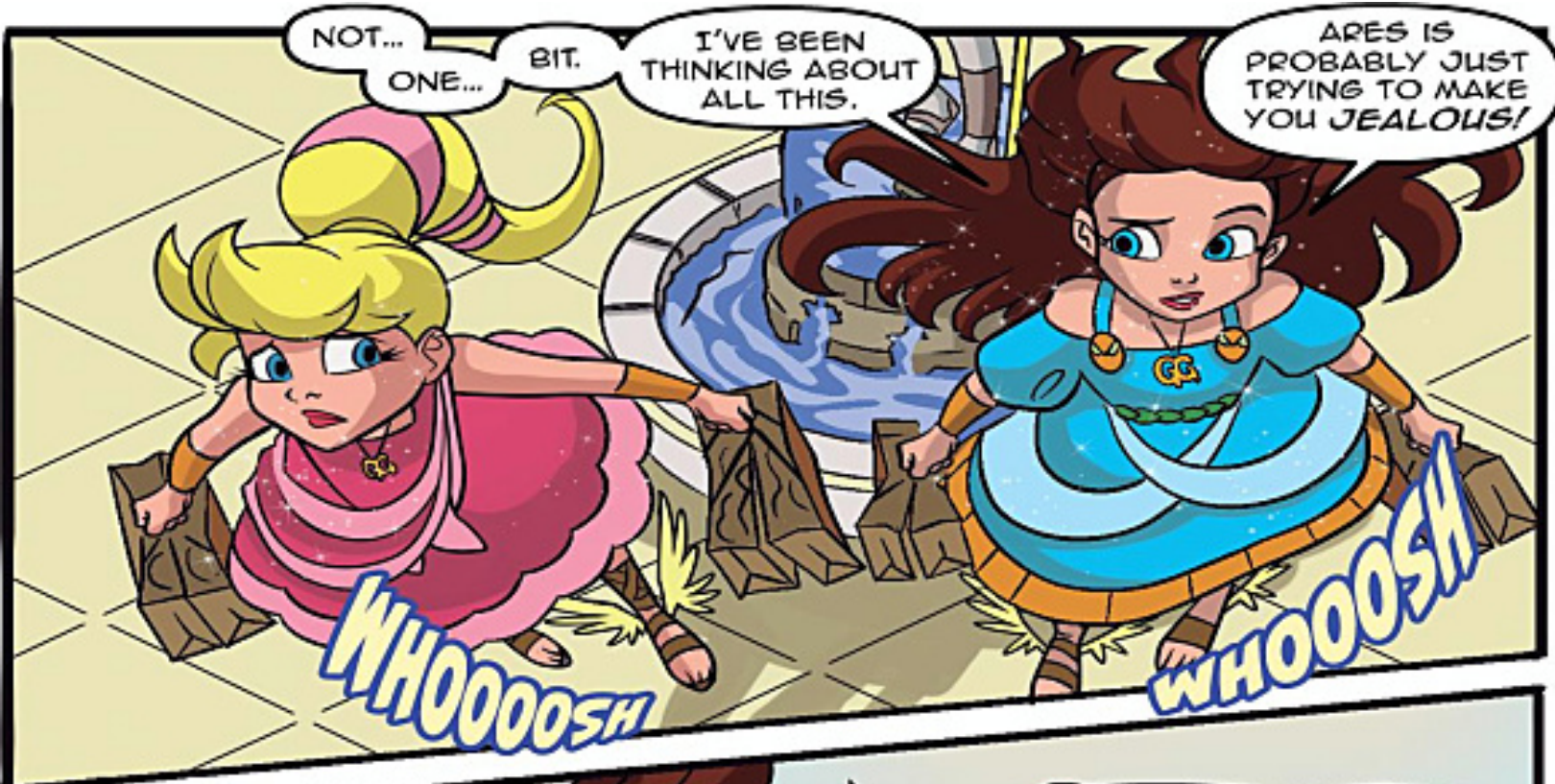
THANKS. IT'S
APHRODITE'S.

SHE'S
LETTING ME
BORROW
IT.

WELL, DON'T
TELL HER I SAID
SO...







...THE SAME
WAY I IGNORED
HIM AND SPOKE TO
POSEIDON!

LOOK!
IN FRONT
OF YOUR
ROOM!



OOOH...
FLOWERS!

HOW
SWEET!

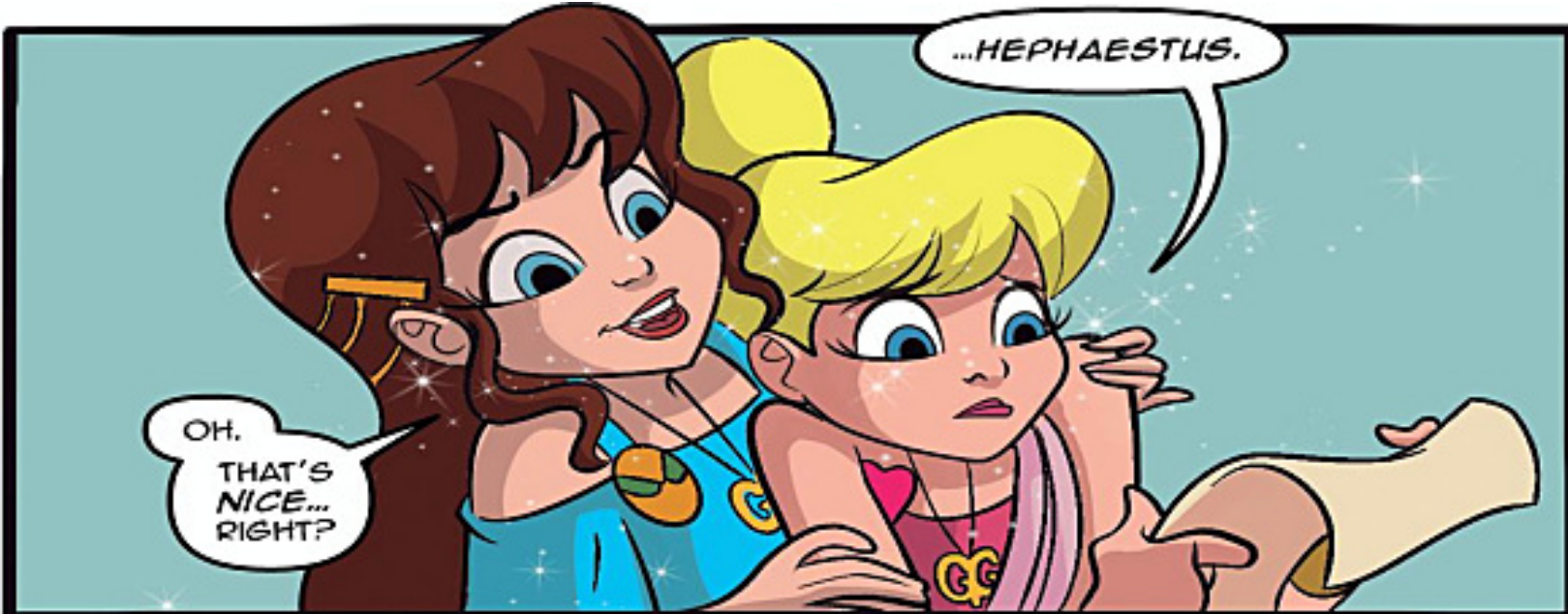
DID ARES
SEND THEM TO
APOLOGIZE FOR
LAST NIGHT?

WHAT'S
IT SAY?
WHO'RE
THEY FROM?

OR FOR THE
WAY HE BEHAVED
TODAY?

IT'S...
...IT'S...

FLIP
FLIP
FLIP



OH,
OKAY.

GUESS I'LL
GO STUDY
THEN.

SEE YOU
LATER!

OKAY.

THANKS
FOR INVITING
ME ALONG.

MMMM. THEY
SMELL SWEET—
AND THEY ARE
BEAUTIFUL.

SNIF!

NO REAL
REASON NOT TO
ENJOY THEM, NO
MATTER WHO
SENT THEM.

NOW I HAVE
TO FIGURE OUT
HOW TO DEAL WITH
HEPHAESTUS.

I DON'T
WANT TO BE HIS
CRUSH.

ARES...

HE'S A
NICE GODBOY,
JUST NOT
MY TYPE.

I HOPE
I CAN LET
HIM DOWN
GENTLY.

YES, ARES
IS ANOTHER
MATTER.

CHAPTER SIX: GOSSIP

THE RACE
IS A DAY AFTER
TOMORROW ON
EARTH!

HOW ON
EARTH DO I HELP
HIPPOMENES?

I COULD SLIP
WINGED SANDALS
TO HIM, BUT EVERYONE
COULD SEE—

AND HE'D HAVE TO
HOLD AN IMMORTAL'S
HAND FOR THEM TO
WORK.

HE COULD
ELOPE WITH ATALANTA,
BUT WHEN I TRIED THAT
STRATEGY WITH PARIS AND
HELEN, IT STARTED
A WAR!

I COULD
BEG HERMES TO
TEACH HIM EVERY SECRET
TO A SPEEDY RACE, BUT
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH
TIME!

WHAT...

WHAT...

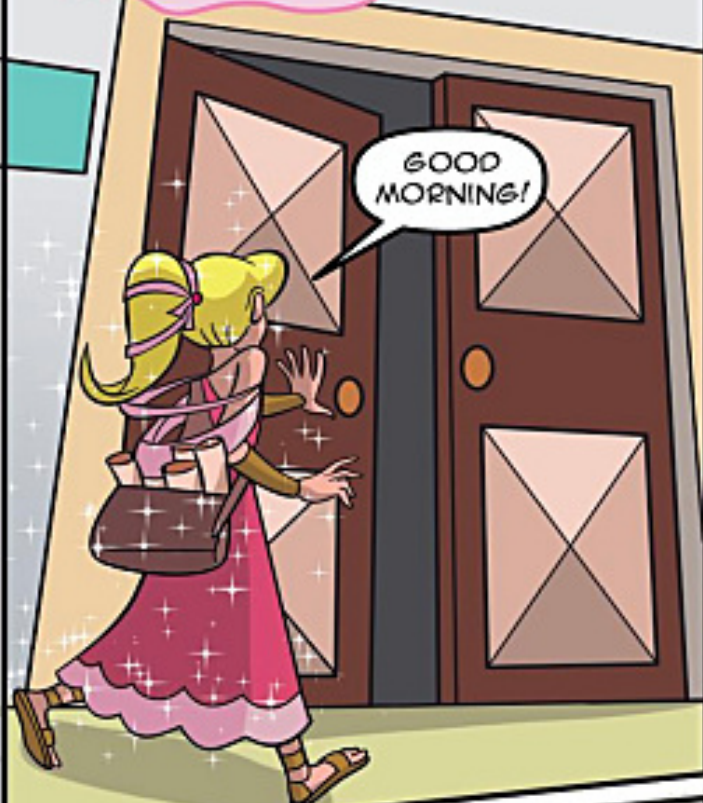
WHAT DO
I DO?

I WASTED MY WHOLE *SUNDAY* ON THIS WITHOUT LEAVING THE DORM!



SURE, I AVOIDED HAVING TO DEAL WITH *ARES* OR *HEPHAESTUS*, BUT STILL...

...I HAVE A PROBLEM TO SOLVE, A PROMISE TO KEEP, AND A ROMANCE TO SAVE!



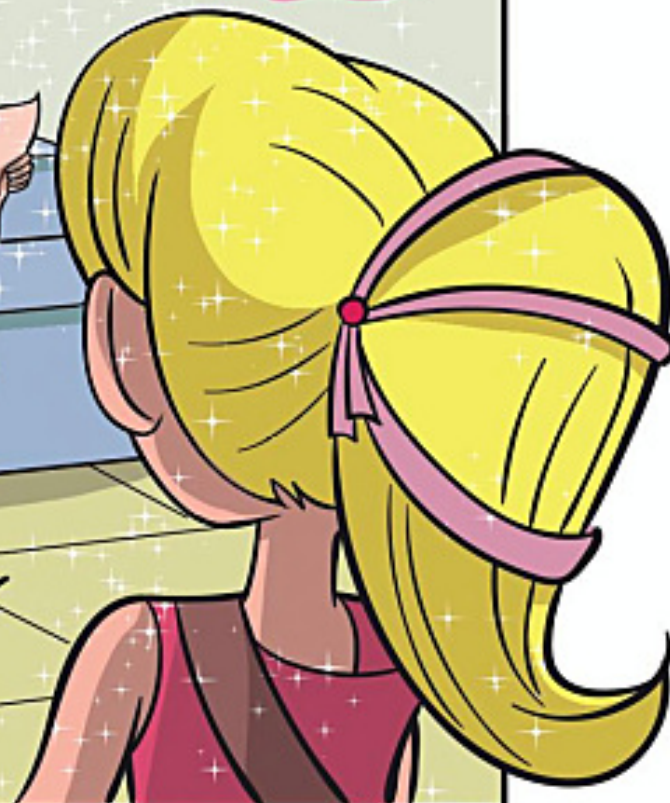
THE SILENT TREATMENT?

WHAT'S GOING ON?



COUGH
COUGH

HMMM.
OKAY.



INTERESTING.
HAS **PHEME** BEEN
SPREADING **GOSSIP**
AGAIN?

TO BE EXPECTED.
SHE IS THE GODDESS
OF GOSSIP AND RUMOR,
AFTER ALL.

MR.
CYCLOPS
WILL BE A FEW
MOMENTS
LATE.
HE SAID TO
STUDY **SECTION**
SIX UNTIL HE
ARRIVES.

MAYBE **PHEME**
AND THE **HERALD** WOULD
MAKE A GOOD MATCH. THEY
AT LEAST HAVE **SOME**
SIMILAR INTERESTS.

LATE AGAIN?
MAYBE **HERMES**
SHOULD TEACH
THIS CLASS!

YEAH, HE'D
NEVER BE LATE,
AND CLASS WOULD
BE OVER IN
MINUTES!

AND AREN'T
THEY BOTH IN THE
BUSINESS OF
ANNOUNCING
THINGS?

INTERESTING
WEEKEND,
BUBBLES?

WHY,
YES...

...IN FACT,
I HEARD YOU GOT
A BIT *SOBBY*!

THOUGH
I'M UNCLEAR IF
IT WAS BEFORE OR
AFTER YOU FINISHED
MOLTING.

AND I HEARD
YOU GOT A NEW
BOYFRIEND.

NEW
BOYFRIEND?

HOW COME
I'M NEVER THERE
WHEN THESE THINGS
HAPPEN TO ME?

YOU
KNOW...

HERO-LOGY

...PINK
ROSES?

IT'S
NOT JUST A
RUMOR...

...IF IT'S
TRUE!

GREAT
JOB, YOU
TWO...

...ADDING
UP TWO PLUS
TWO TO EQUAL
FIVE!

YOUR
MATH TEACHER
WILL BE SO
PROUD!





SO YOU WERE SAYING...?

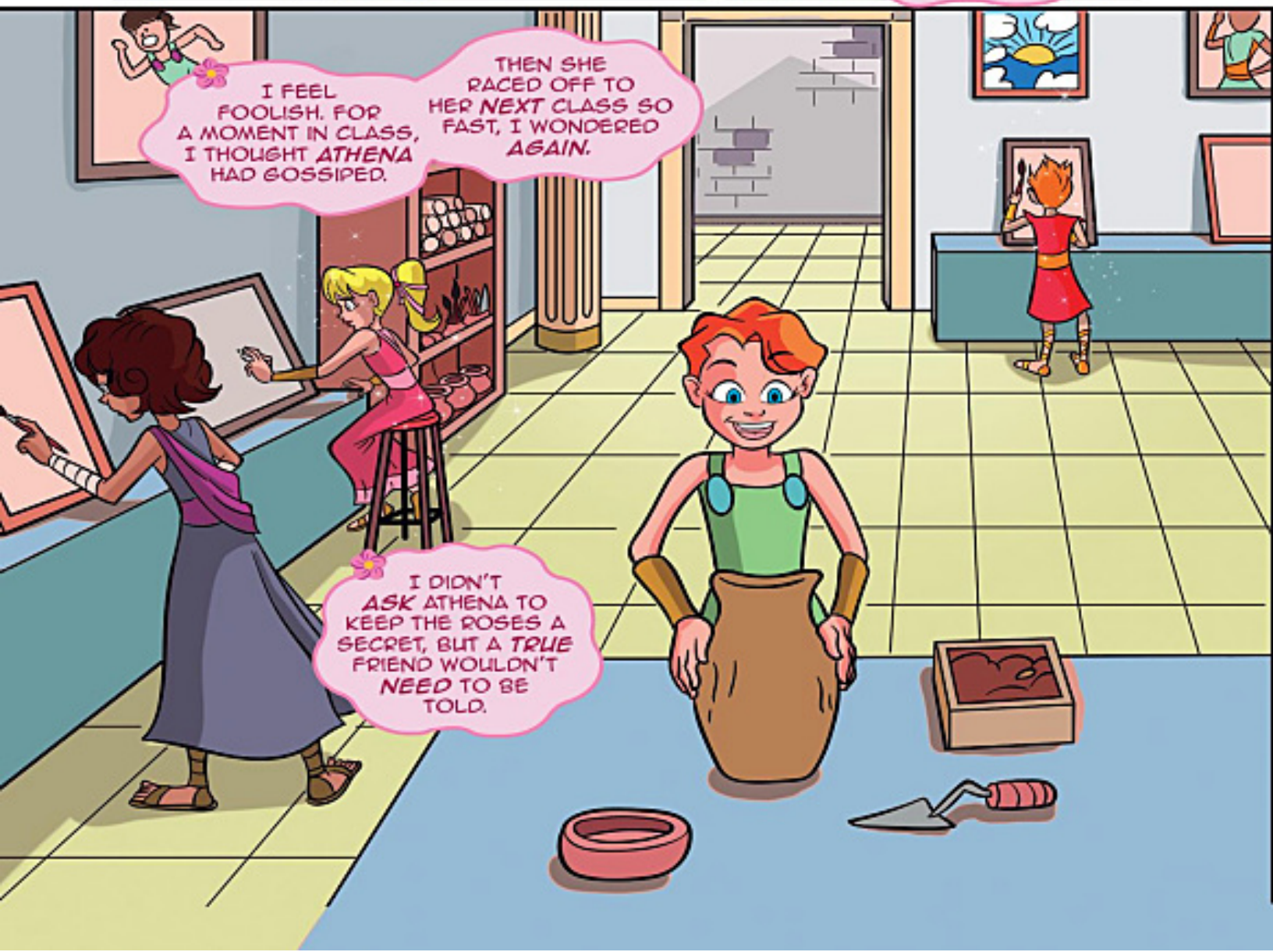
CLASS!

SNAPP!
URK!

WERE I MORTAL, MEDUSA'S GLARE WOULD TURN ME TO STONE FOR SURE!

NOW THAT YOU'VE ALL READ SECTION SIX...

GOOD THING MR. CYCLOPS PICKED THIS MOMENT TO START CLASS.



I FEEL FOOLISH. FOR A MOMENT IN CLASS, I THOUGHT ATHENA HAD GOSSIPED.

THEN SHE RACED OFF TO HER NEXT CLASS SO FAST, I WONDERED AGAIN.

I DIDN'T ASK ATHENA TO KEEP THE ROSES A SECRET, BUT A TRUE FRIEND WOULDN'T NEED TO BE TOLD.

IT WAS CLEAR ENOUGH FROM HER REMARKS IN CLASS, THOUGH: ATHENA *DIDN'T* NEED TO BE TOLD.

NEW DESIGN FOR THE MINOTAUR MOSAIC...?

HMM?
WHAT?

SO WHY AM I SO BOTHERED?

IS THAT A NEW FASHION?
HA-HA-HA!

OHHH...

SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

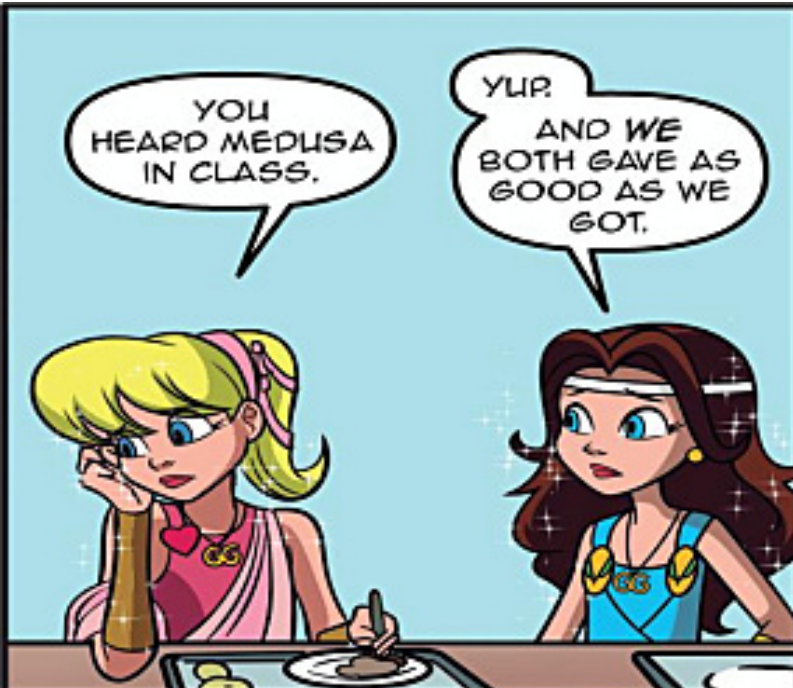
BAD DAY?

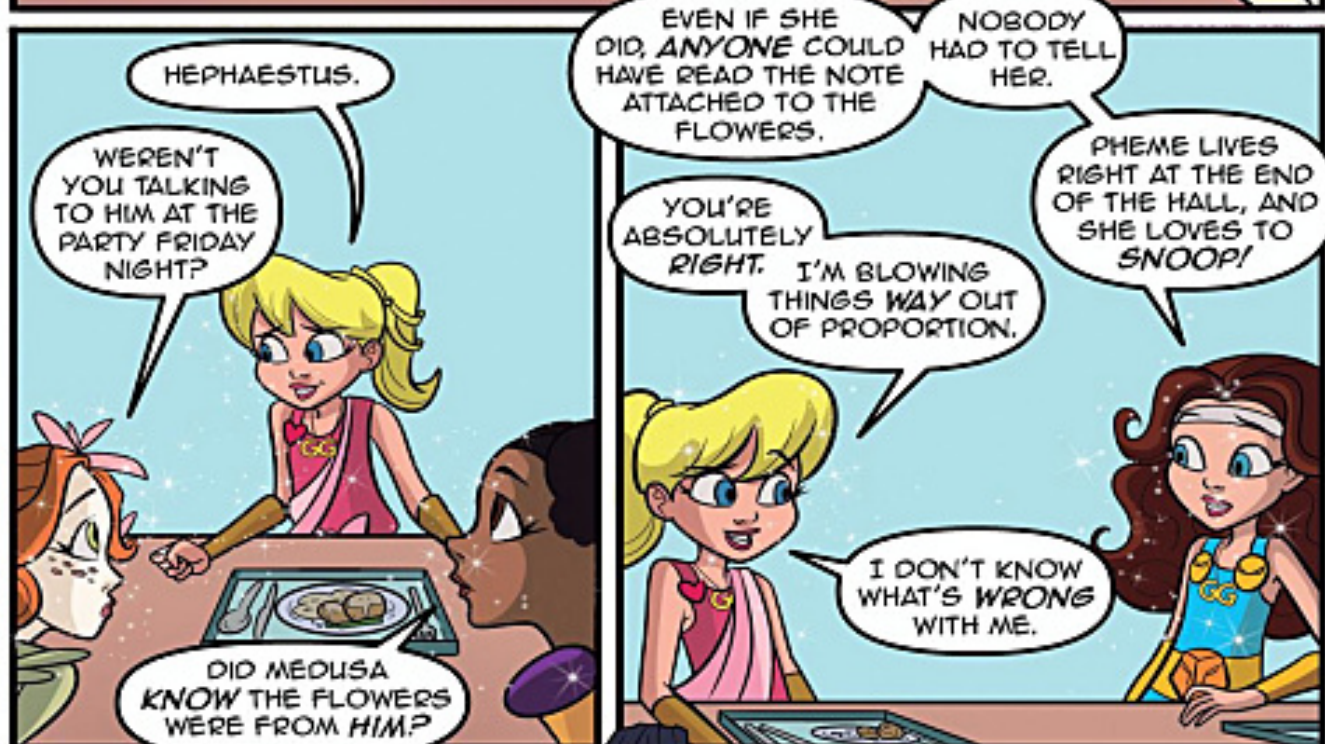
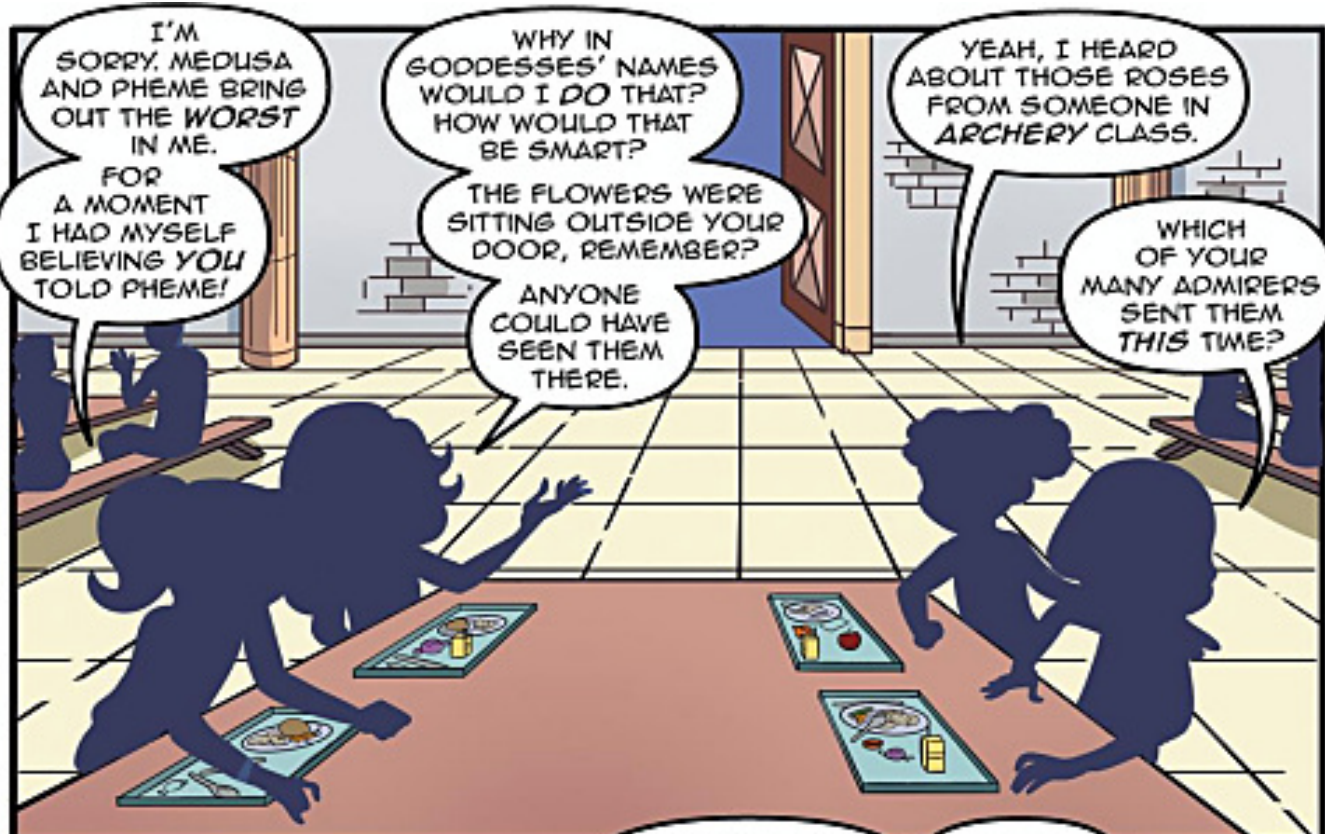
HORRIBLE.

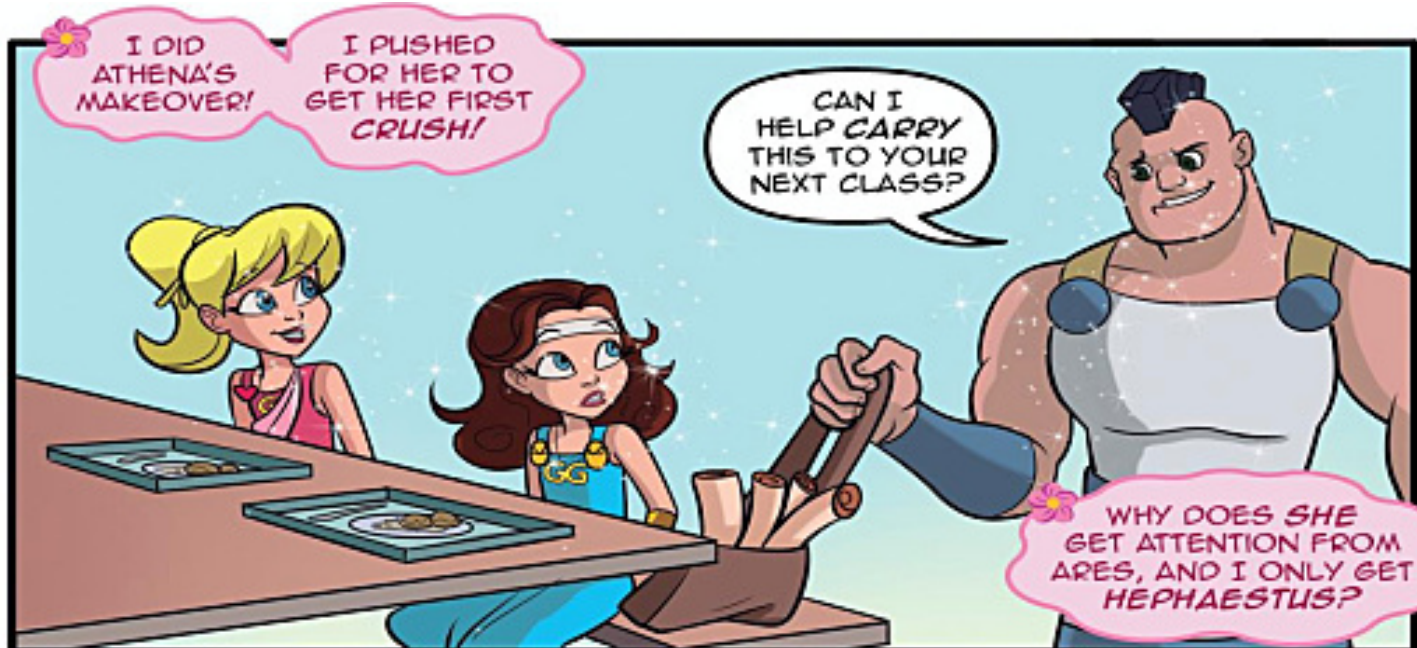
GLOSSSH

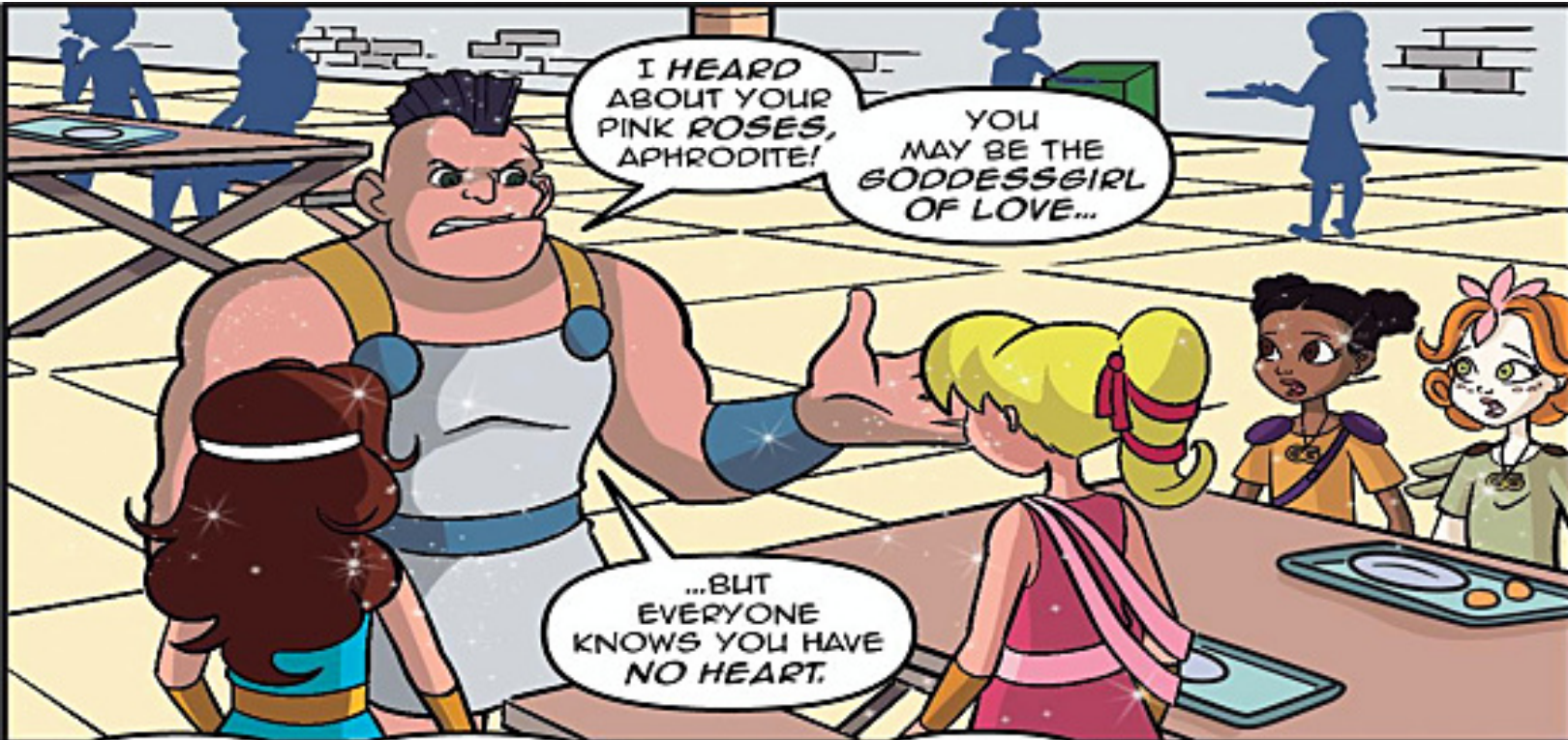
THUNK!





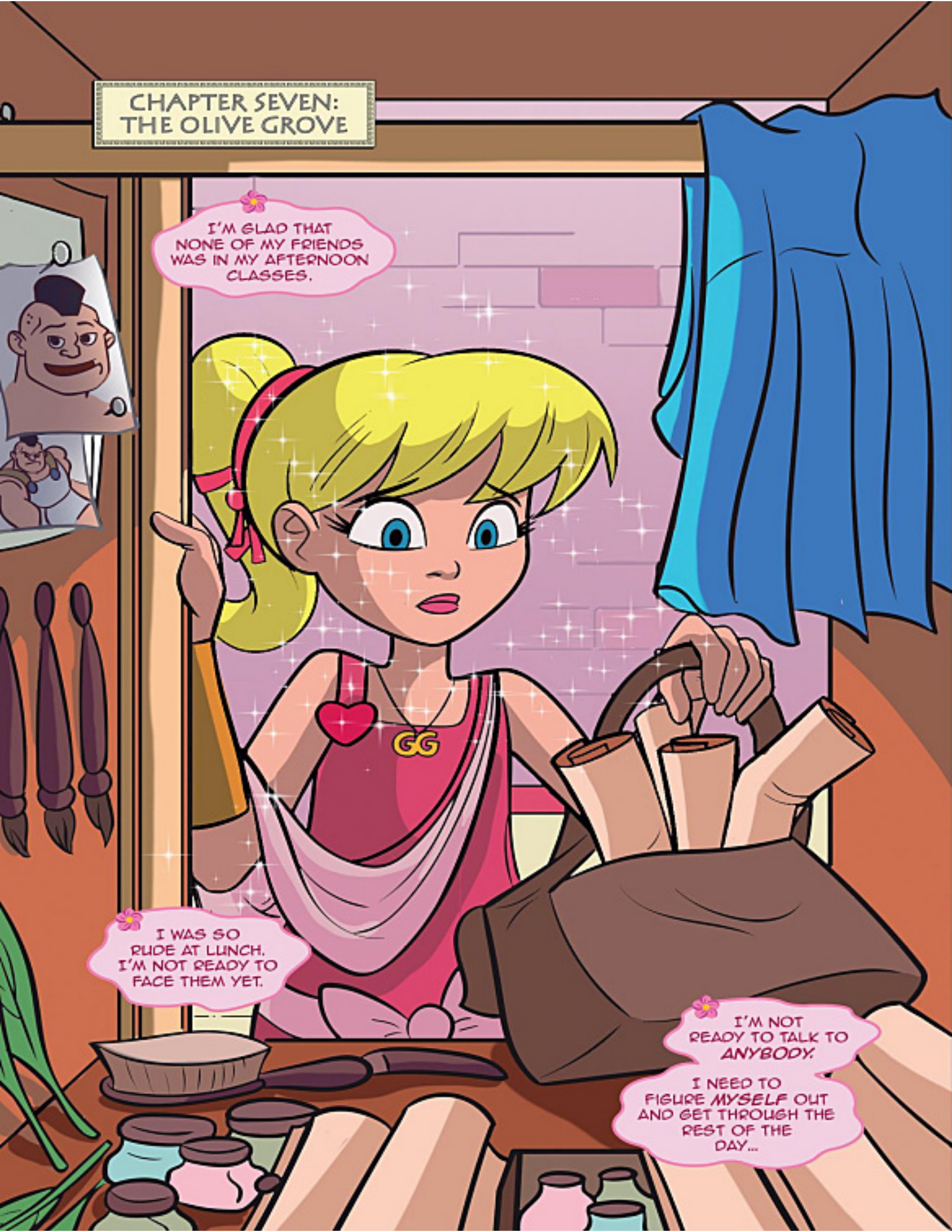








CHAPTER SEVEN: THE OLIVE GROVE



I'M GLAD THAT
NONE OF MY FRIENDS
WAS IN MY AFTERNOON
CLASSES.

I WAS SO
RUDE AT LUNCH.
I'M NOT READY TO
FACE THEM YET.

I'M NOT
READY TO TALK TO
ANYBODY.

I NEED TO
FIGURE MYSELF OUT
AND GET THROUGH THE
REST OF THE
DAY...

...NOT TO MENTION I
NEED TO *SOLVE* POOR
HIPPONEMES'S PROBLEM,
AS I PROMISED!

APHRODITE!
HEY,
APHRODITE!

OH NO. HAS
HEPHAESTUS BEEN
HANGING AROUND
WAITING FOR ME?

I AM IN NO
MOOD TO TALK TO
ANY GODBOY
RIGHT NOW!

APHRODITE,
WAIT UP!

I'LL JUST
PRETEND NOT
TO HEAR HIM!

APHRODITE,
PLEASE—!

TOK
TOK
TOK

THE LAST
THING I NEED IS
HIS YELLING CALLING
MORE ATTENTION
TO ME RIGHT NOW.

SIGH

TOK
TOK
TOK

DEEP
BREATH. DEEP
BREATH. GET
CALM.

HI!
LET'S TALK
OVER HERE.



SO DID YOU *LIKE* THE...

AHEM

...ROSES?



THEY'RE VERY PRETTY AND SO *SWEET*.

JUST LIKE THE GODBOY WHO *SAVE* THEM TO ME, BUT—



WAS I *RIGHT* TO GUESS THAT *PINK* IS YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

YOU WEAR IT A LOT.



I LOVE PINK.

IT'S...

YOU'RE...



WHAT?



I WAS JUST THINKING...

...THAT YOU'RE SO *DIFFERENT* FROM THE OTHER GODBOYS.



I MEAN, I CAN'T THINK OF EVEN *ONE* OTHER GODBOY...

...WHO IS *THOUGHTFUL* ENOUGH...

THAT'S A *COMPLIMENT!*





OOOH,
HEPHAESTUS...

...IT'S
GORGEOUS!

THANKS.

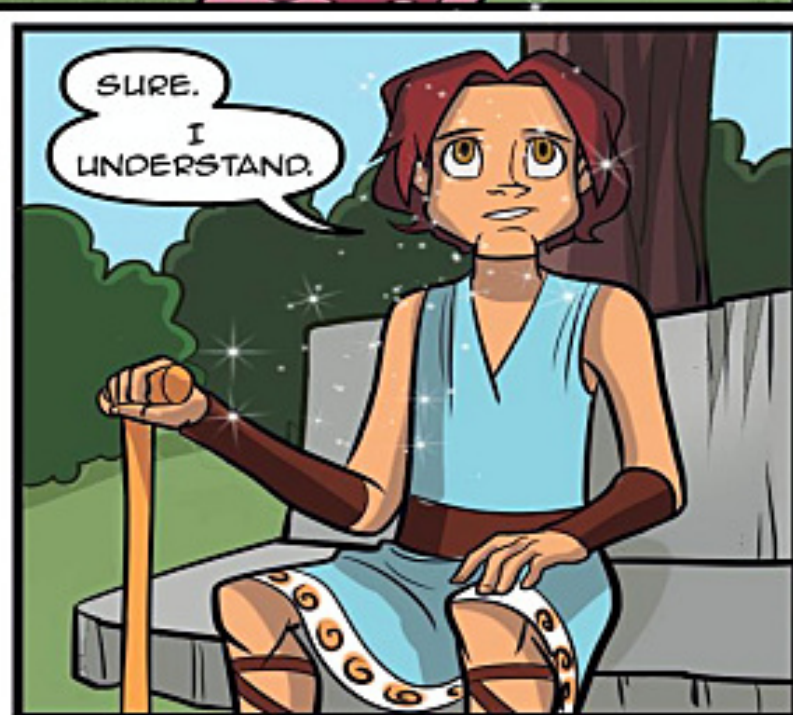
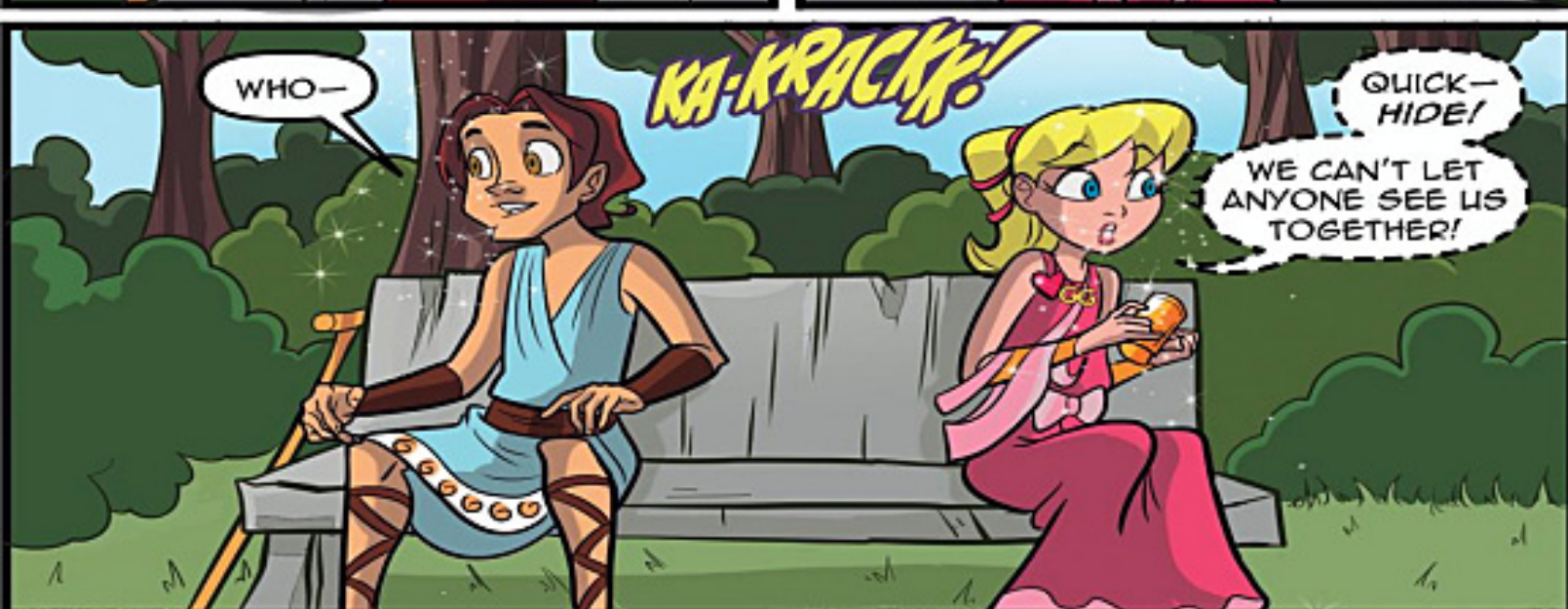
WHERE
DID YOU FIND
IT?

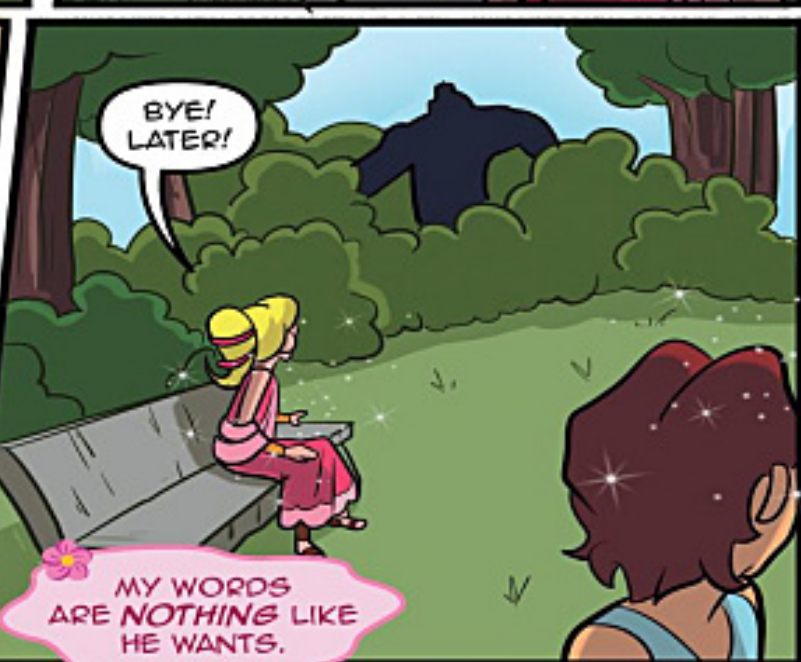
I'VE NEVER
SEEN A BRACELET
SO EXQUISITE AT THE
IMMORTAL MARKETPLACE
JEWELRY STORE!

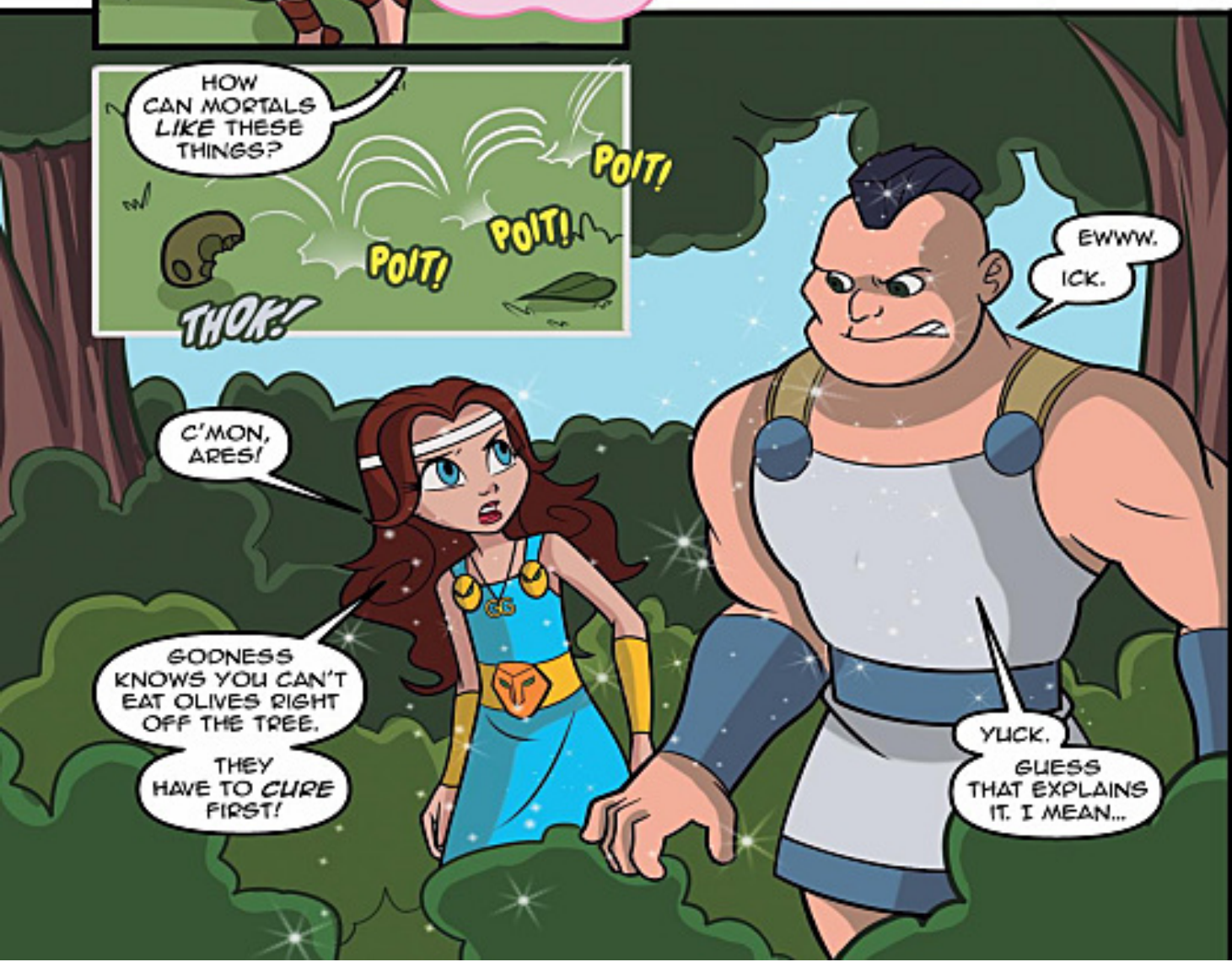
IT'S SO
LOVELY, I CAN'T
TAKE MY EYES
OFF IT.

BUT OF
COURSE I
HAVE TO GIVE
IT BACK.

DON'T I?







ATHENA?
HOW DARE SHE
COME HERE
WITH ARES!

SHE
DOESN'T EVEN
LIKE HIM!

...I KNEW YOU
COULDN'T HAVE
INVENTED SOMETHING
THAT TASTES SO
BITTER!

OR
DOES
SHE?

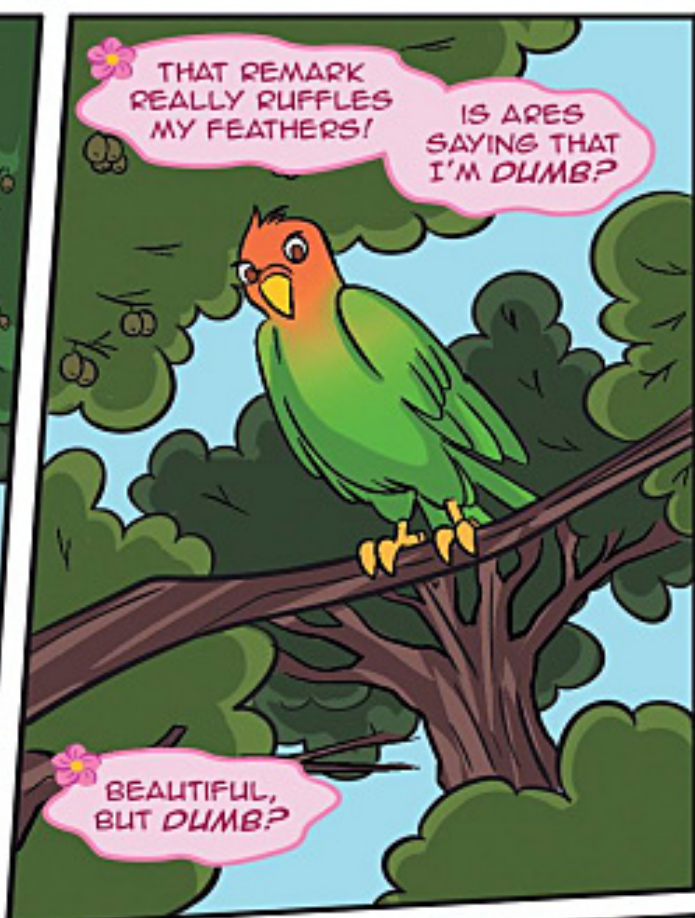
FROM HERE
I CAN FIND OUT FOR
MYSELF!

THE
GREEKS HAVE
FOUND ALL *KINDS*
OF USES FOR MY
OLIVES!

THEY'RE NOT
JUST EATING THEM—
THEY'RE SQUEEZING OIL
FROM THEM TO COOK WITH
AND BURN IN LAMPS AND
WARM THEIR HOMES!

THAT'S IT,
ATHENA!

KEEP UP WITH
THE "GODDESSGIRL
PRATTLE" THAT ARES
HATES SO MUCH!



ARES' EGO
IS BIGGER THAN
THE *COLOSSUS*!
WHY DO I WASTE MY
TIME ON HIM?

BECAUSE
HE'S AWFULLY
HANDSOME AND CAN
BE CHARMING?

HE ONLY HAD
EYES FOR ME AT THE
HARVEST HOP A FEW
WEEKS AGO, AND IT
WAS GREAT!

AS GODDESSGIRL
OF LOVE, MATTERS OF
THE HEART *SHOULD* BE
TRANSPARENT TO ME—

BUT I'M
CLUELESS ABOUT
MY OWN.

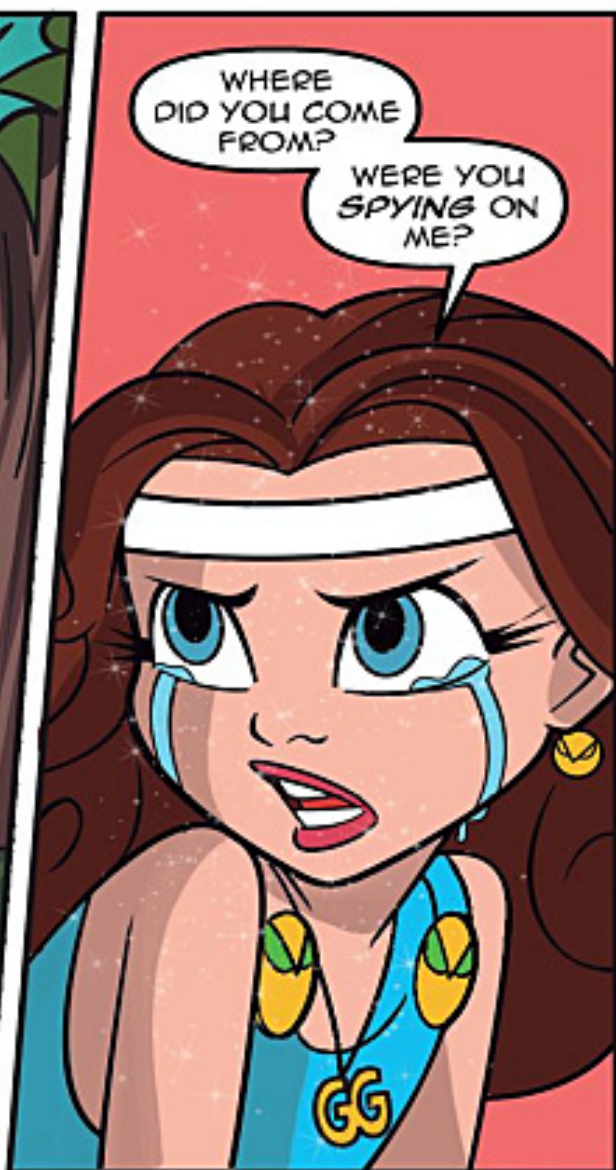
WAIT! WHAT
DID HE SAY?
WHAT DID I
MISS?

GET
LOST!

SHOVE!

AWW,
THEENY!







CHAPTER EIGHT:
AN ARGUMENT

APHRODITE!

I
JUST SAW
ATHENA...

...AND SHE
SEEMED AWFULLY
UPSET ABOUT
SOMETHING!

ANY IDEA
WHAT?

NOT
A CLUE,
PHEME!

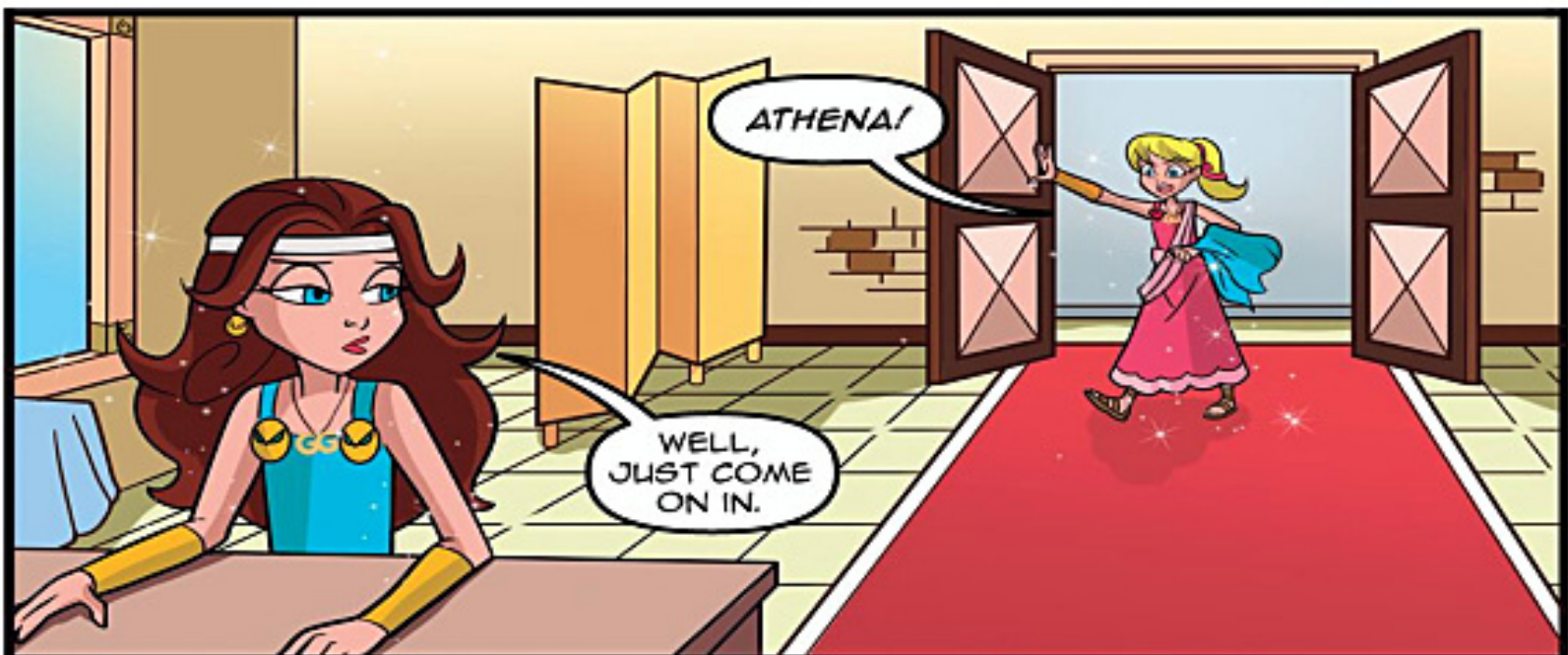
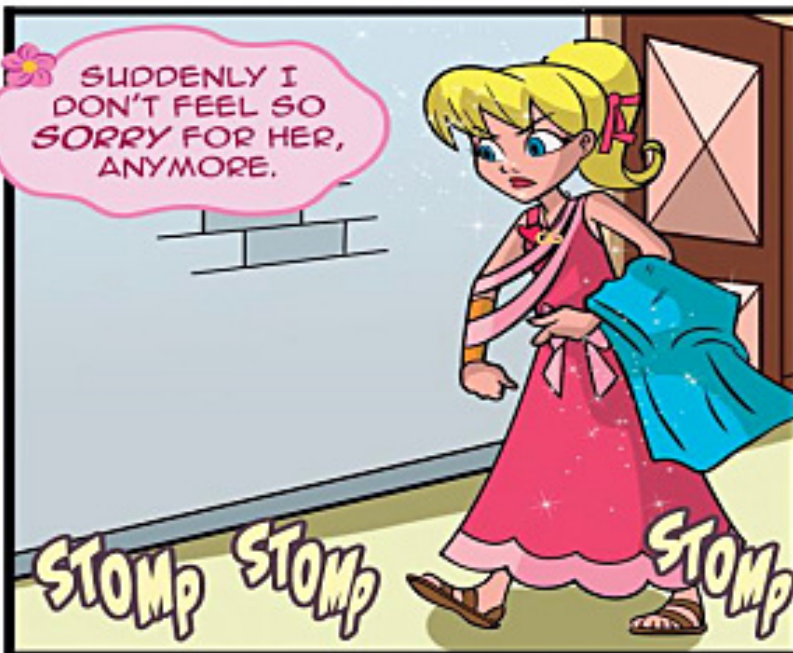
I DON'T
LIKE TO LIE.

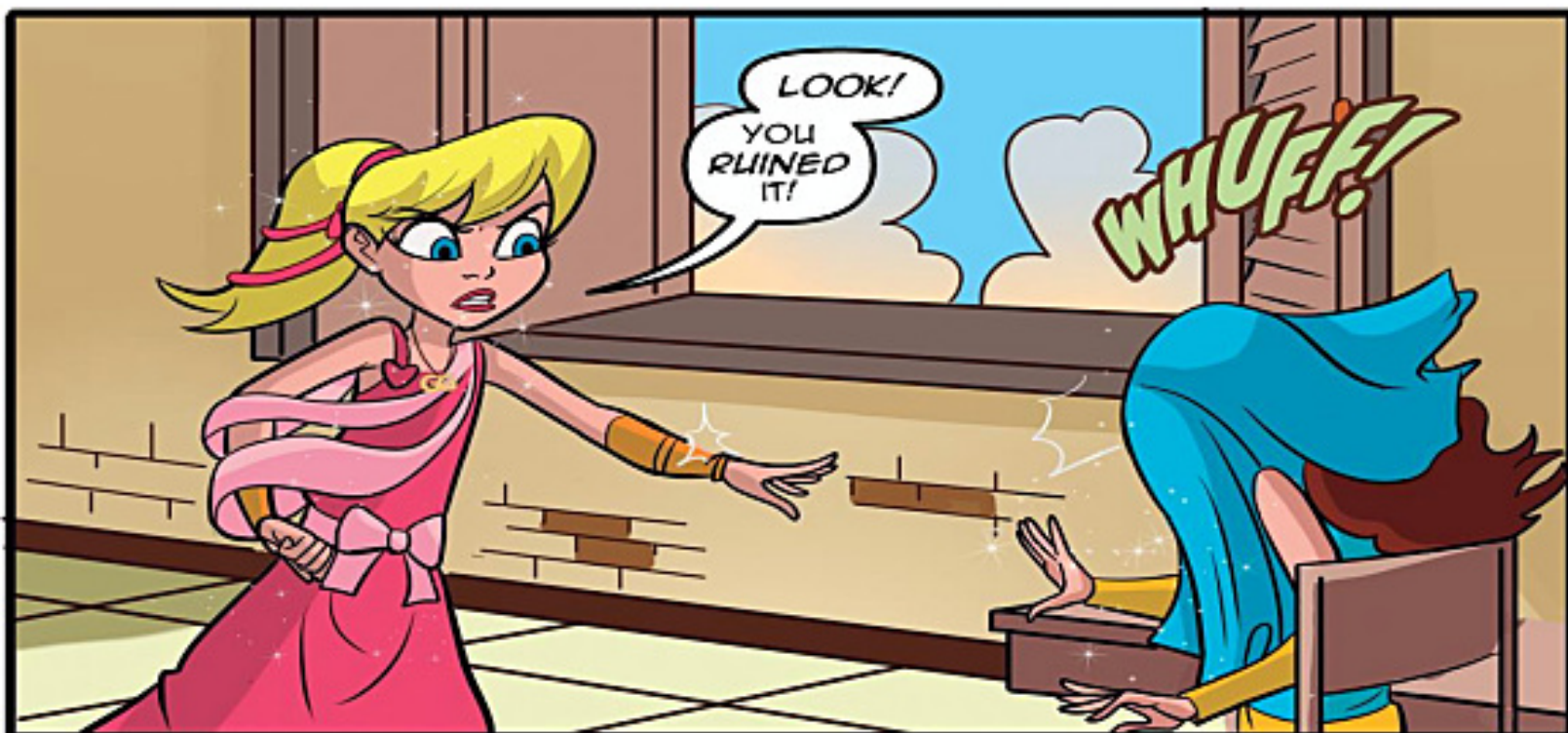
BUT I'M NOT
GOING TO GIVE PHEME
ANY NEW GOSSIP TO
REPEAT.













NO ONE ELSE WILL EITHER.

BUT I'LL KNOW IT'S THERE!

PLOP!



I SAID I WAS SORRY.

MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LOANED IT TO ME IF YOU WERE SO AFRAID I'D RUIN IT.

IT WASN'T MY IDEA TO GET DRESSED UP AND GO TO THAT PARTY!



OH REALLY?

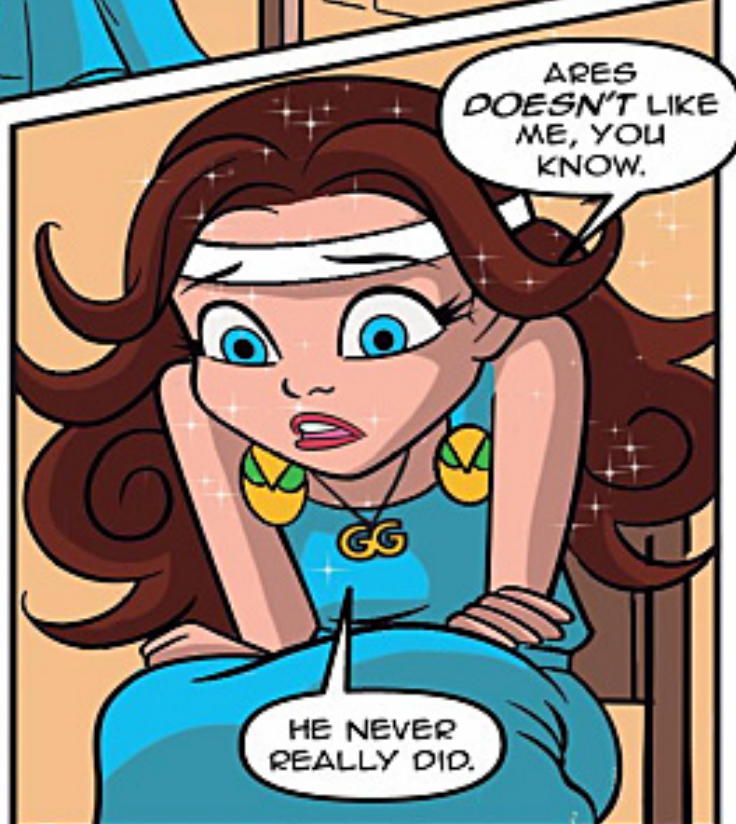
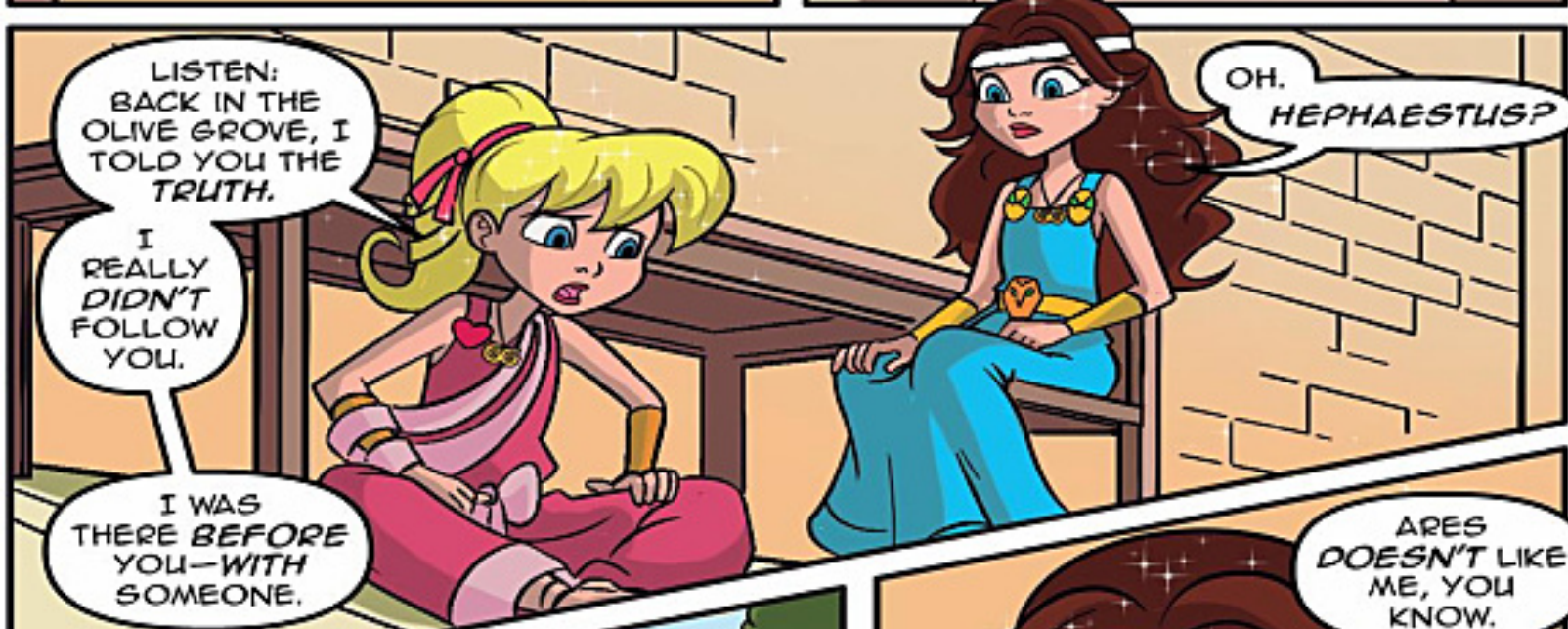
YOU CERTAINLY SEEMED TO ENJOY YOURSELF ONCE YOU WERE THERE...

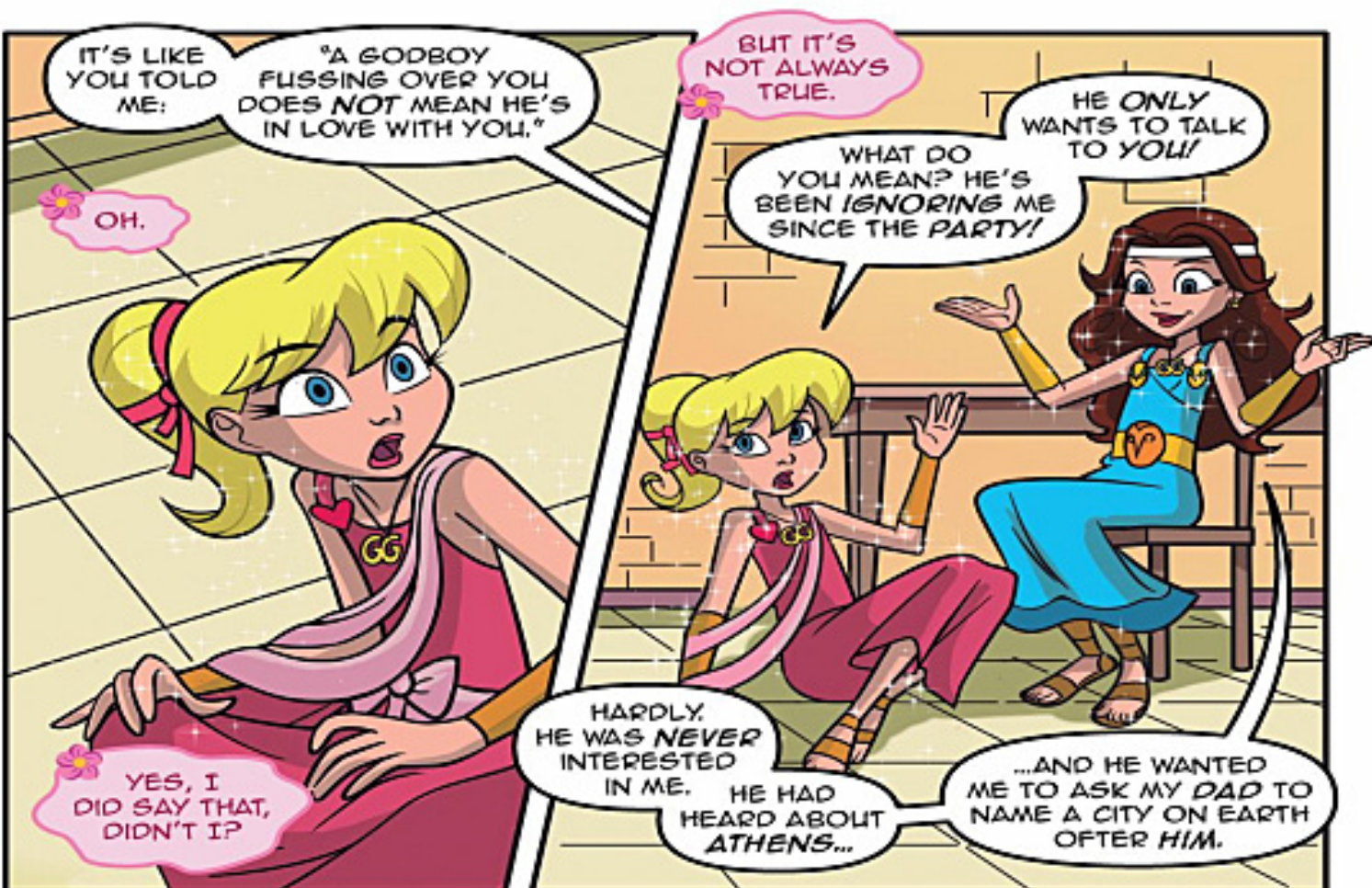
...WITH ALL THE GODBOYS HANGING ON TO YOUR EVERY WORD.

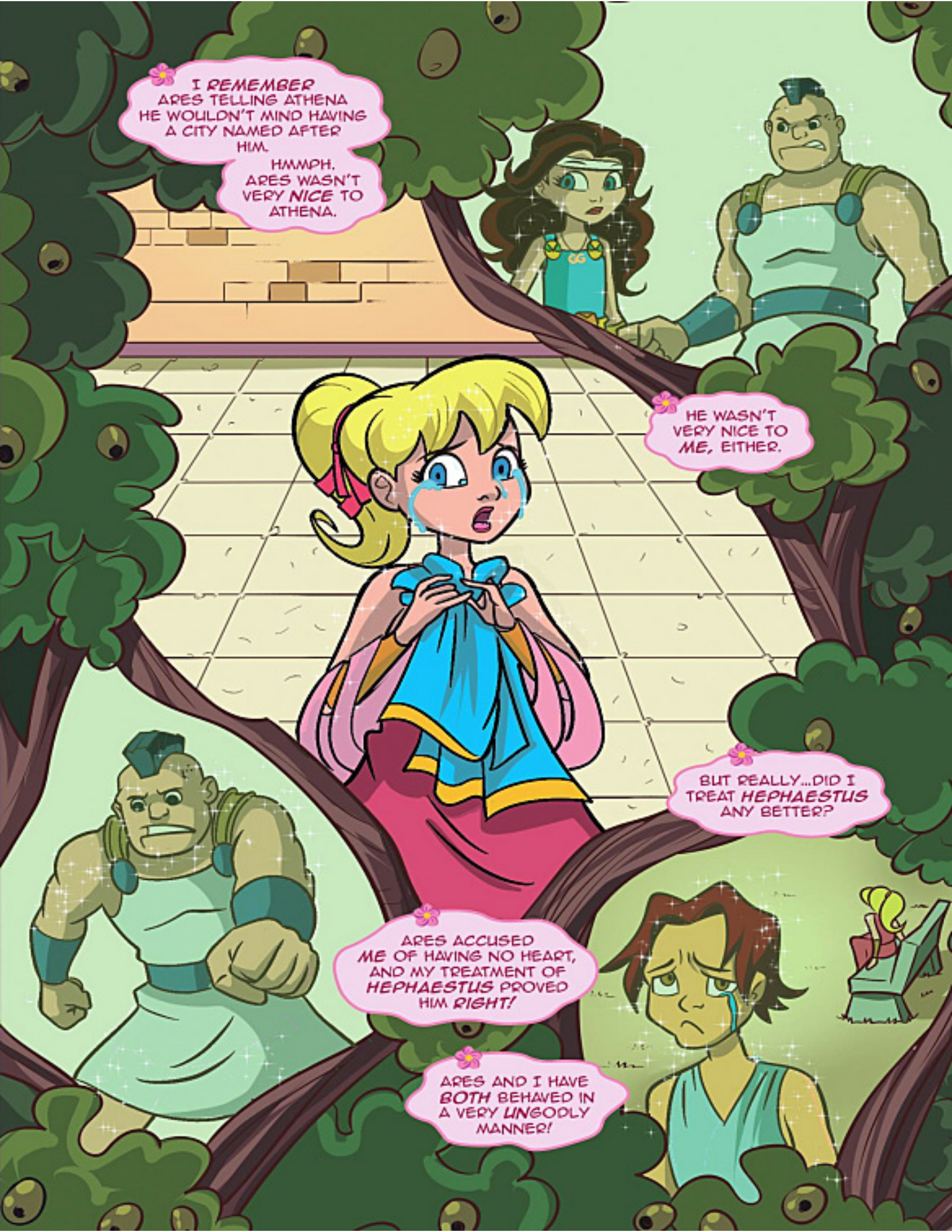


WAIT-WAITWAIT!
YOU'RE JEALOUS?
OF ME?

I THOUGHT YOU HATED ALL THE ATTENTION YOU GET FROM THOSE GODBOYS!







A comic book page with a green background and stylized trees. In the center, Athena, a blonde girl in a pink dress with a blue cape, is crying and clutching a blue cloth. To her left, Ares, a muscular man in a light blue tunic, is running towards her with a determined expression. To her right, Hephaestus, a man with brown hair in a light blue tank top, is looking down sadly. In the background, a woman with long brown hair (Athena's mother) and another muscular man (Ares) are standing near a stone wall. The scene is set on a tiled path.

I REMEMBER
ARES TELLING ATHENA
HE WOULDN'T MIND HAVING
A CITY NAMED AFTER
HIM.

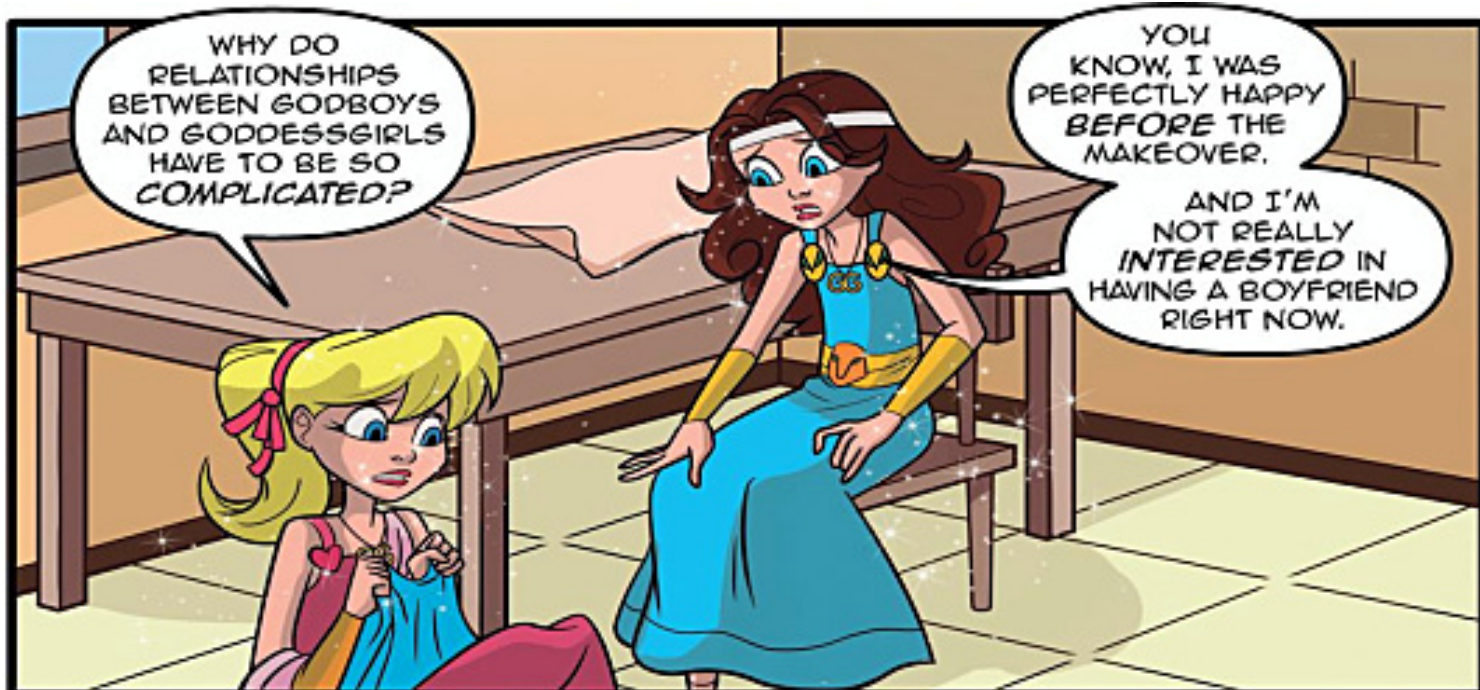
HMMPH.
ARES WASN'T
VERY NICE TO
ATHENA.

HE WASN'T
VERY NICE TO
ME, EITHER.

BUT REALLY...DID I
TREAT HEPHAESTUS
ANY BETTER?

ARES ACCUSED
ME OF HAVING NO HEART,
AND MY TREATMENT OF
HEPHAESTUS PROVED
HIM RIGHT!

ARES AND I HAVE
BOTH BEHAVED IN
A VERY UNGOODLY
MANNER!



IT NEVER FOR A MOMENT OCCURED TO ME YOU'D HAVE ANY TROUBLE IN ANY CLASS.

I REALLY THOUGHT YOU JUST WANTED SOME GUIDANCE ON ENHANCING YOUR NATURAL BEAUTY!



SO I'LL ASK STRAIGHT OUT...

...DO YOU NEED SOME HELP WITH YOUR HOMEWORK?



REALLY...?

SURE. WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?



THANK YOU! AND I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR CHITON.

I'LL BUY YOU A NEW ONE.



NO, YOU KEEP IT.

I'VE GOT MORE CHITONS THAN I CAN EVER WEAR.

BESIDES, ARES WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...

...IT DOES LOOK BETTER ON YOU THAN ON ME!



WHOA! WHOA! OH, THAT'S SO GORGEOUS!

WHERE DID YOU GET IT?



LIUUUU...

TELL HER
THE TRUTH!

...HEPHAESTUS
GAVE IT TO ME IN THE
OLIVE GROVE.

I SHOULDN'T
HAVE ACCEPTED
IT, THOUGH.

I'M
GOING TO GIVE
IT BACK.

BUT IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL!

YES, BUT
IT WOULD BE
WRONG FOR ME
TO KEEP IT.

I'M PRETTY
SURE HE GAVE IT TO
ME HOPING I'LL BE
HIS GIRLFRIEND.

UMMM...SO A GIRL
HAS TO LIKE A BOY AS
MORE THAN A FRIEND, JUST
BECAUSE HE GIVES
HER A GIFT?

NOT
ALWAYS.

WELL, I'D
BE TEMPTED TO
KEEP IT.

ANY GIRL
WOULD—MORTAL
OR IMMORTAL!

WAIT—
THAT'S IT!

I KNOW HOW TO
HELP HIPPOMENES
WIN HIS RACE!

GREAT! WAIT.
WHAT?

WHO?

CHAPTER NINE: THE APPLES

I'M RELIEVED
THAT ATHENA DOESN'T
HATE ME.

I REALLY DO
TREASURE EVERY
MOMENT WE SPEND
TOGETHER.

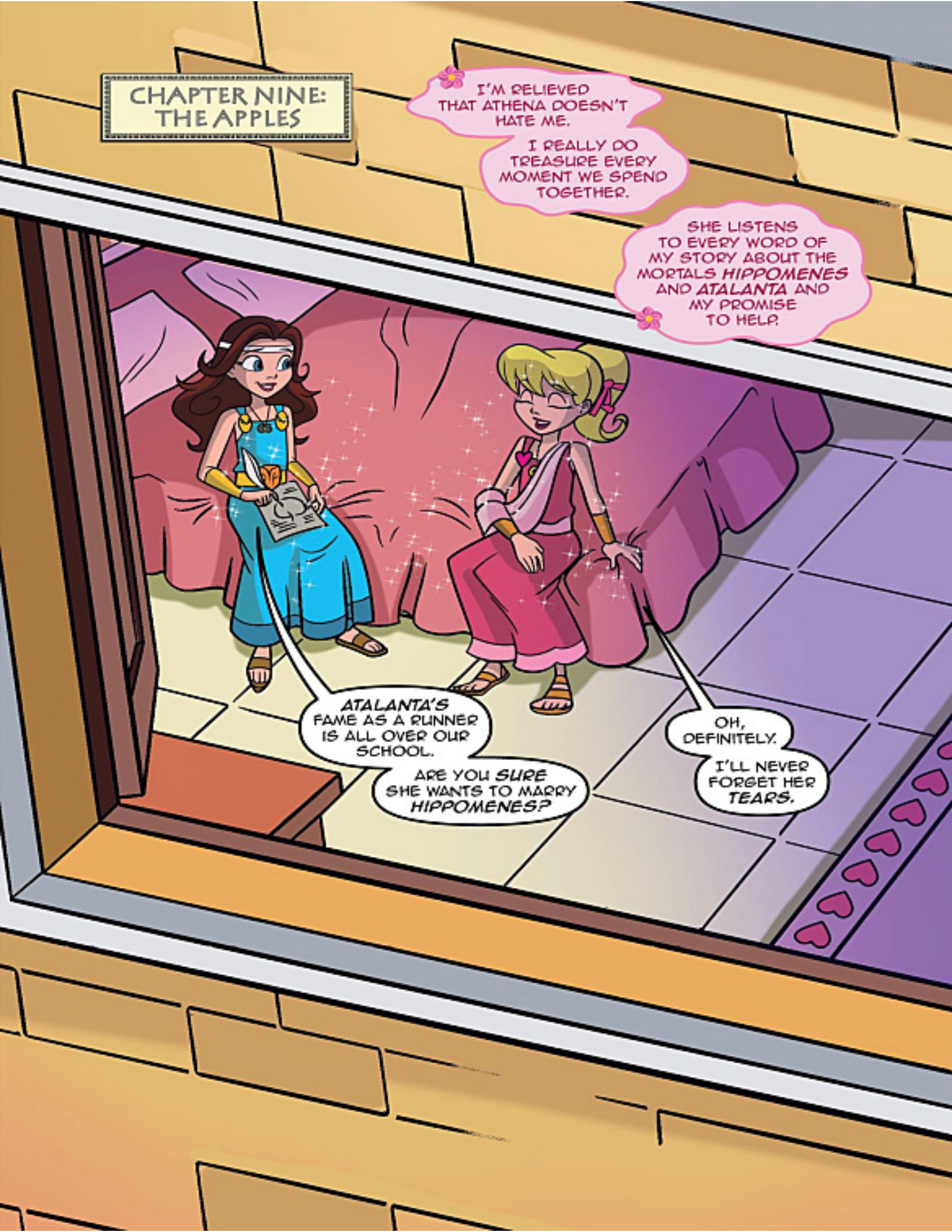
SHE LISTENS
TO EVERY WORD OF
MY STORY ABOUT THE
MORTALS HIPPOMENES
AND ATALANTA AND
MY PROMISE
TO HELP.

ATALANTA'S
FAME AS A RUNNER
IS ALL OVER OUR
SCHOOL.

ARE YOU *SURE*
SHE WANTS TO MARRY
HIPPOMENES?

OH,
DEFINITELY.

I'LL NEVER
FORGET HER
TEARS.



SO ABOUT
YOUR *PLAN* TO
HELP THEM:

WHERE
DO YOU PLAN
TO FIND APPLES
OF GOLD...

...AND BY
TOMORROW?
I'VE NEVER SEEN
ANY AROUND
HERE!

I'M
GOING TO ASK
HEPHAESTUS
FOR HELP!

I HAVE TO BE AS
UPBEAT AS POSSIBLE
AND ACCEPT ALL THE
CONSEQUENCES.

I FEAR THAT I
HAVE TO DISAPPOINT HIM
AND ASK FOR A FAVOR IN
THE SAME BREATH.

HUH?

HEPHAESTUS!

WAIT UP!

AREN'T
YOU WORRIED
EVERYONE HEARD
YOU *CALLING*
FOR ME?

WHAT?
NO, THAT WASN'T
ABOUT YOU.

THAT WAS A
PROBLEM THAT I
WAS DEALING
WITH.

I'M
SORRY THAT I
WAS SO ABRUPT
WITH YOU.

I DECIDED
I CAN'T KEEP THIS,
AFTER ALL...



...BUT THANK
YOU FOR LETTING
ME BORROW IT!

...NO
PROBLEM.



I KNOW
THIS IS TERRIBLE
FOR HIM.

IT IS
TERRIBLE FOR
ME TOO.

IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL, I
DON'T WANT TO
GIVE IT UP.

BUT YOU
SHOULD KEEP
IT.



SOMEDAY
YOU MIGHT WANT
TO GIVE IT TO
SOMEONE
SPECIAL.

BUT
I WAS
HOPING...

...THAT
SOMEONE
SPECIAL MIGHT
WANT TO WEAR
IT NOW.



HEPHAESTUS,
YOU ARE *EASILY*
THE NICEST GODBOY
I KNOW.

THE *RIGHT*
GODDESSGIRL
WILL COME ALONG
SOON.

DON'T
WORRY.

ESPECIALLY
IF I *HELP!*

BUT FIRST
THINGS *FIRST!*

REMEMBER
THE *MORTALS* THAT
WE TALKED ABOUT?
HIPPOMENES'S RACE
IS *TOMORROW!*

YOU SAID
TO ASK IF
YOU COULD DO
SOMETHING TO
HELP.

IS THAT
OFFER STILL
OPEN?

OF
COURSE!

OKAY—

SO LOOK
AT THIS AND TELL
ME WHAT YOU
THINK.

ALL
RIGHT.

FLIP

THAT'S
BRILLIANT!



CHAPTER TEN: THE RACE

BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, I RUSH TO COOK UP SOMETHING HELPFUL FOR ATHENA'S *BEAUTY-OLGY* PROJECT.

ARTEMIS AND PERSEPHONE STOP BY IN THE MIDDLE OF IT!

YIKES!

GODNESS!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

RUFF

RUFF

ARE!





A comic panel set in a spa-like environment with a pink brick wall and a wooden counter. Aphrodite, a blonde girl with a blue towel on her head and a blue robe, has green scrub on her face and is touching it. To her right, a girl with pink hair and a pink robe also has green scrub on her face and is scooping more from a bowl on the counter. On the far left, a girl with brown hair and a grey robe looks on. On the far right, a girl with dark skin and a purple robe is partially visible. The scene is filled with small white sparkles.

YOU'RE
JUST IN TIME
FOR A FACIAL
SCRUB!

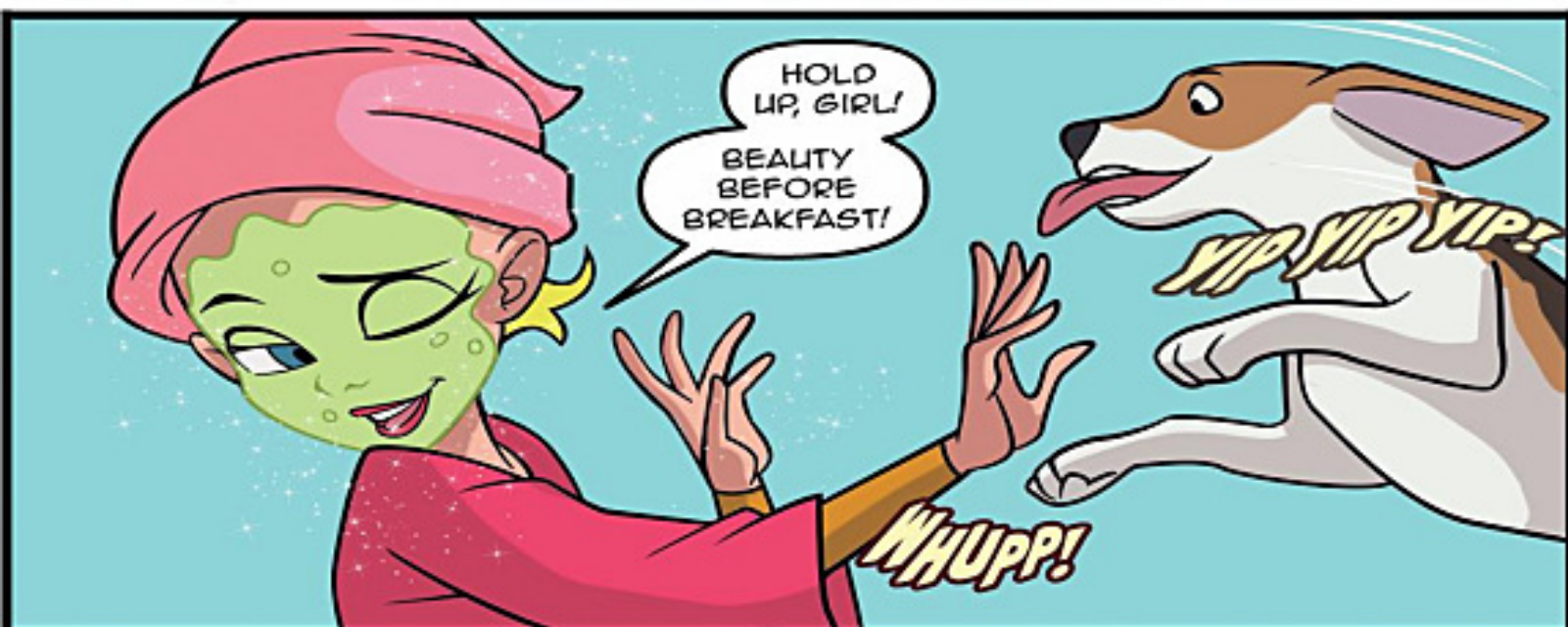
YOU GONNA
JOIN US?
IT FEELS
GREAT!

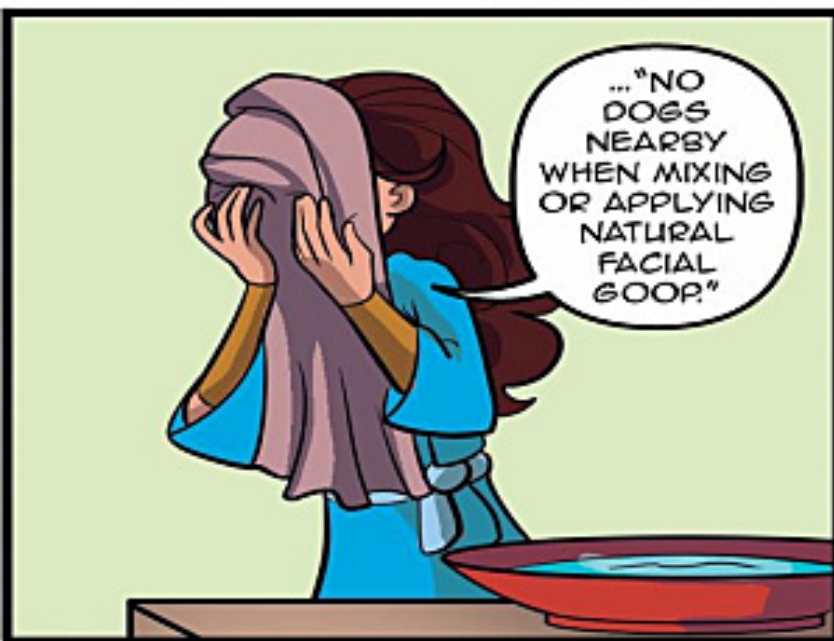
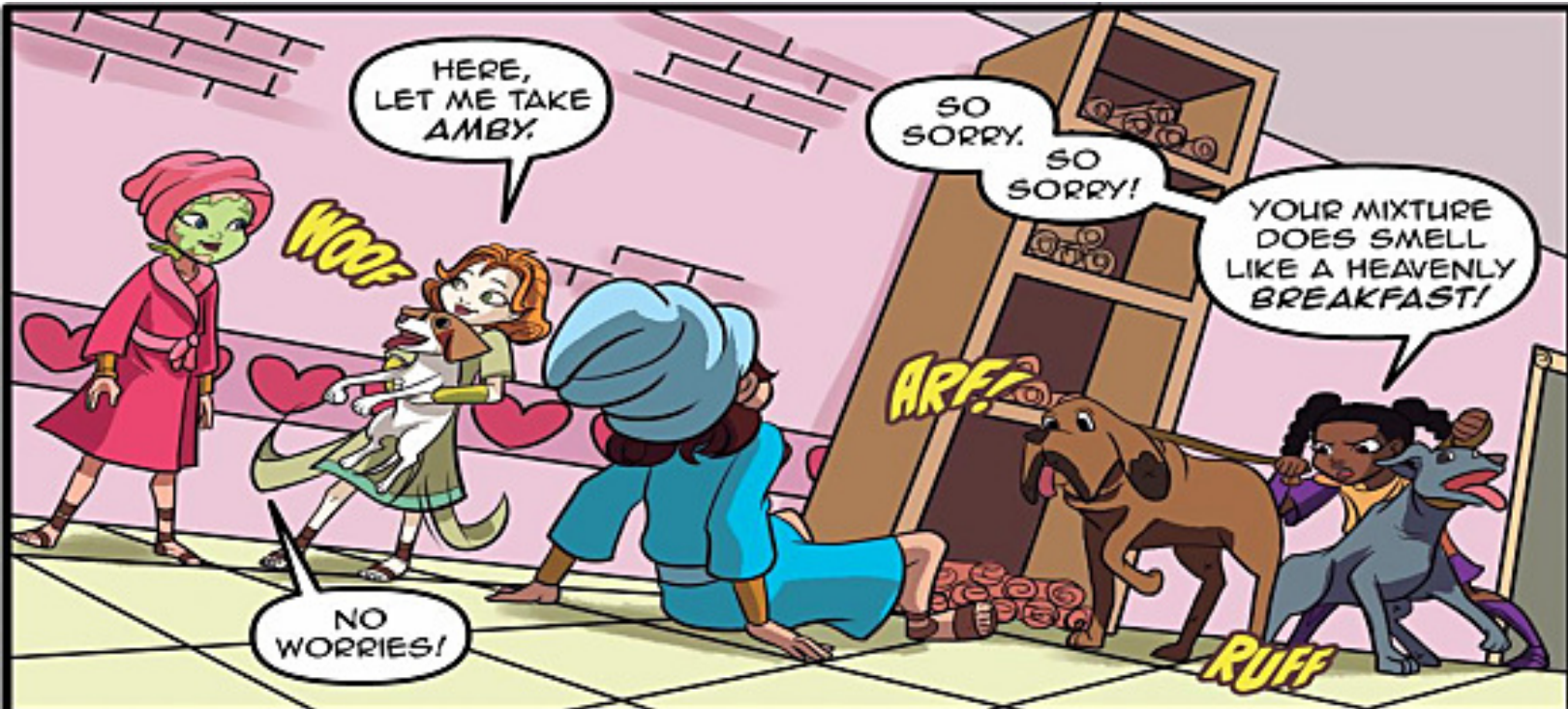
HA-HA-HA!

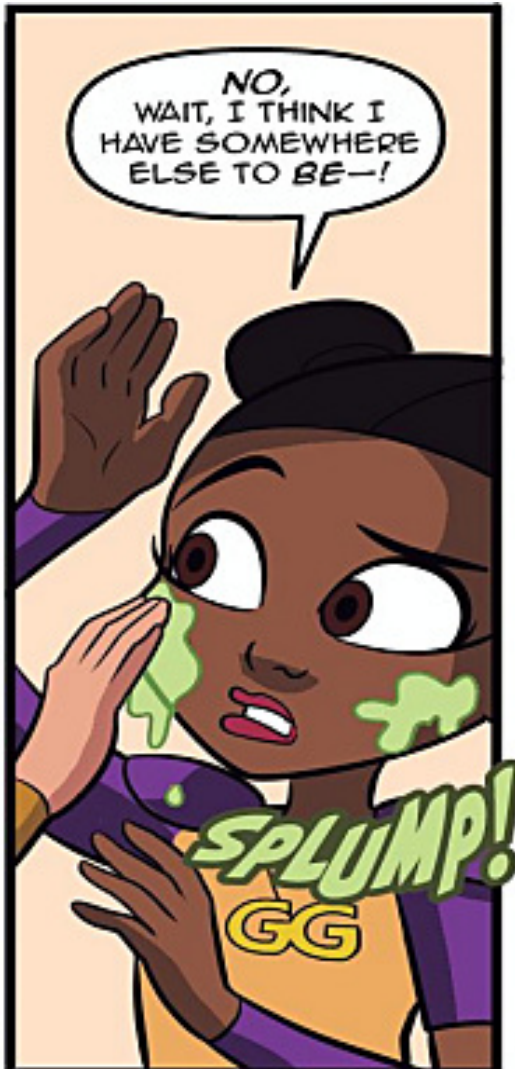
MAYBE WE
SHOULD GET YOU
A DOCTOR!

WHATEVER YOU'VE
GOT, APHRODITE, IT SEEMS
TO BE *CONTAGIOUS*!











SOME TIME LATER...

GOOD MORNING, HEPHAESTUS!

THIS PLACE IS AMAZING. I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN HERE BEFORE!

EVERYONE'S INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS OF THE LABORS, NOT THE LABORS THEMSELVES.

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME.

THREE APPLES COATED IN GOLD, AS YOU REQUESTED!

THESE ARE AMAZING!

I HOPE THEY'LL DO JUSTICE TO YOUR PLAN.

SOLID GOLD?

NO, NO.

I SMITHED THE APPLES, AND MY FRIEND COATED IT IN GOLD LEAF.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, HEPHAESTUS!

WOULD YOU PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE RACE?

WOULD THAT I COULD, DEAR GODDESS, BUT I'VE WORKED ALL NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEP.

I NEED A NAP BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN!

HEPHAESTUS REALLY IS THE BEST!

PROMISES
ARE MEANT TO
BE KEPT.

OOOF!

NO MATTER IF
IT'S A BOY'S VOW TO
LOVE AND CHERISH
HIS SOULMATE...

UNNNH

...OR A GODDESS'S
VOW TO HELP A MORTAL
IN LOVE AND IN NEED.

OH MY...

GOOD MORNING,
HIPPOMENES!

I THOUGHT YOU
MIGHT LIKE TO MEET
MY FRIENDS.

...GODDESSES!

THEY CAME
ALONG TO WATCH
YOU WIN!

I SOUND
CONFIDENT.

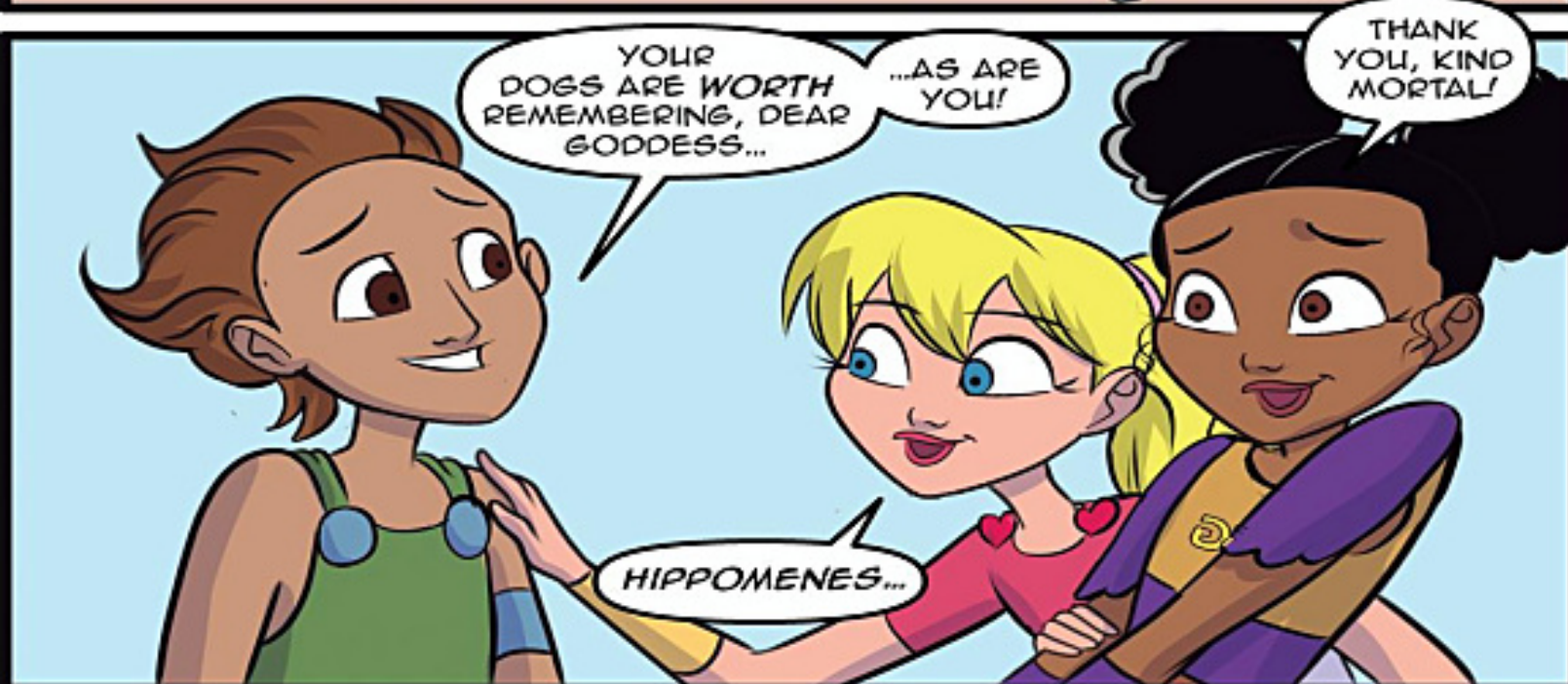
I WANT TO
FULFILL MY
PROMISE.

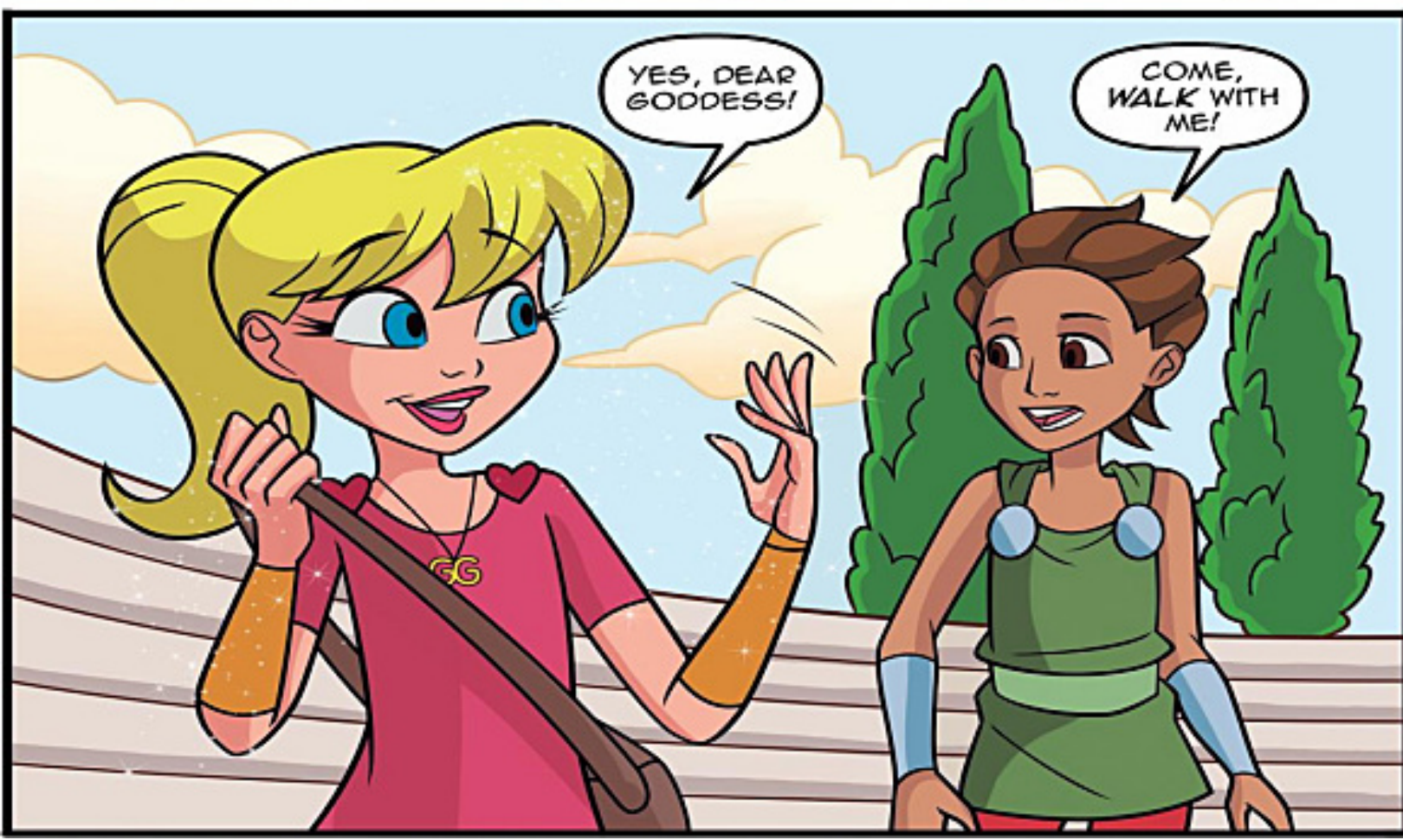
I WANT TO
BRING THESE
TWO LOVERS
TOGETHER!

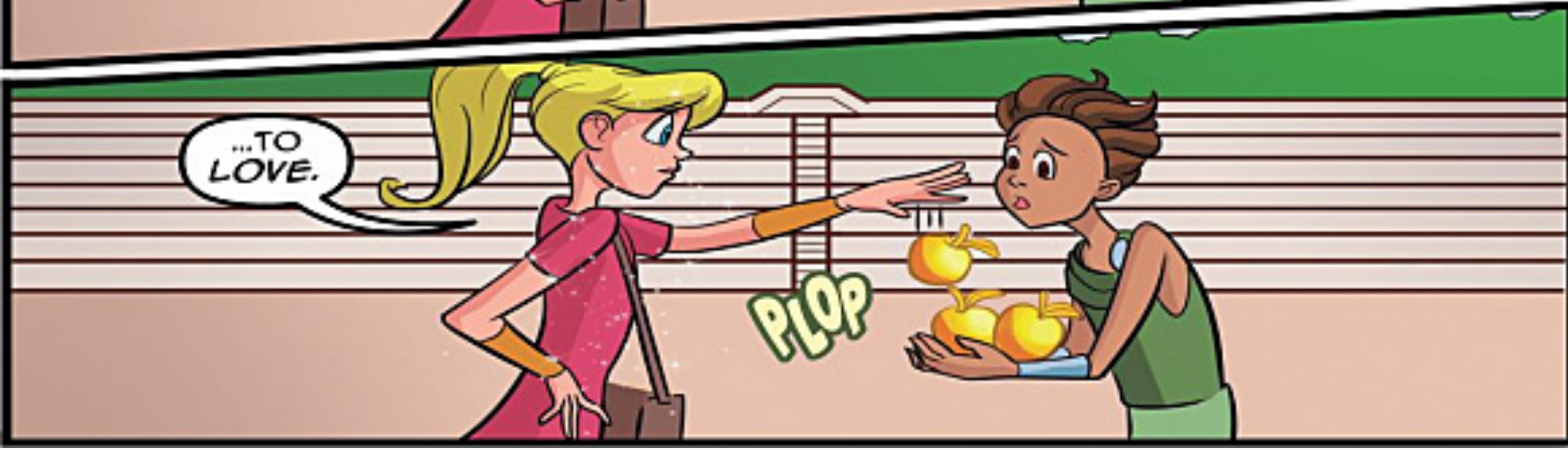
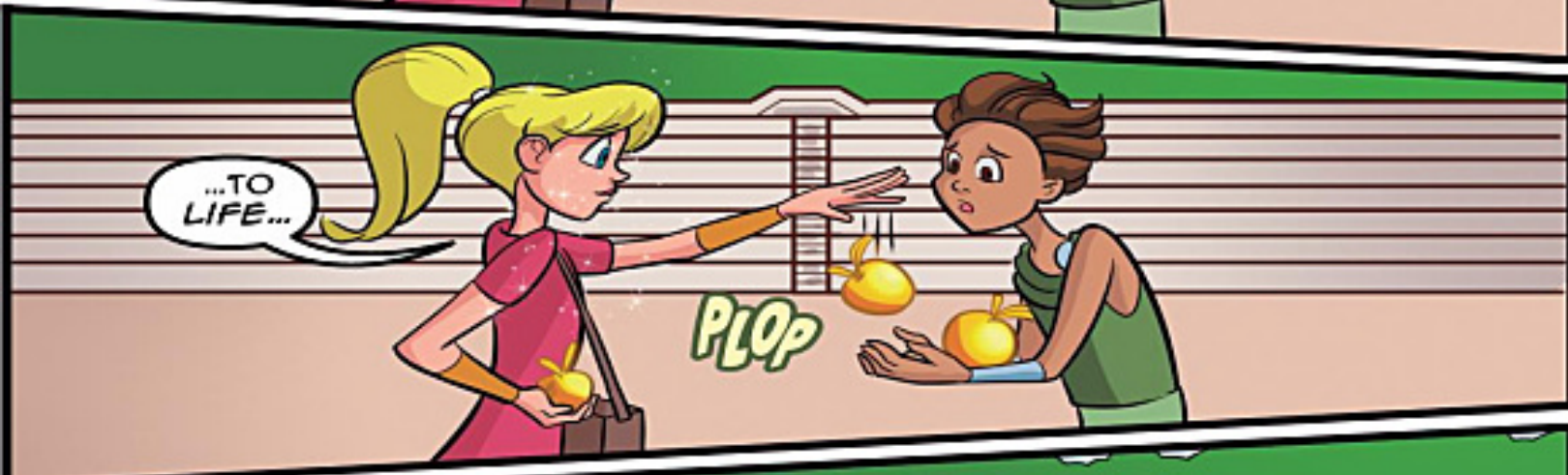
ARF!

WOOF!

RUFF!









IT IS OFTEN
INTERESTING TO HEAR
KINGS SPEAK AS THOUGH
THEY ARE THE GODS.

IT IS A FINE DAY FOR
US TO COME TOGETHER AS A
KINGDOM TO SEE THE BEST OF
US IN BODY AND SOUL...

...COMPETING
FOR THE VICTORY
THAT BURNS IN OUR
HEARTS.

AND THE
COST IT MAY
BRING TO
SOME.

MAY YOUR
HEARTS BE LIGHT,
AND YOUR FEET
BE FLEET!

KING
SCHOENEUS,
THANKFULLY...

...KEEPS HIS
ANNOUNCEMENTS
SHORT AND
SWEET!

OFF TO
VICTORY, DEAR
FATHER.

OFF TO
VICTORY, MY
CHILD.

SMACK

I SAW YOU
HAD NEW FANS
TO CHEER YOU
ON?

FRIENDS
IN HIGH PLACES
URGING ME TO
FOLLOW MY
HEART.

THEN,
TRULY...

"...MAY THE WIND BE
AT YOUR BACK!"

PA-PA-PA-PA-PA-PA-PA-PA



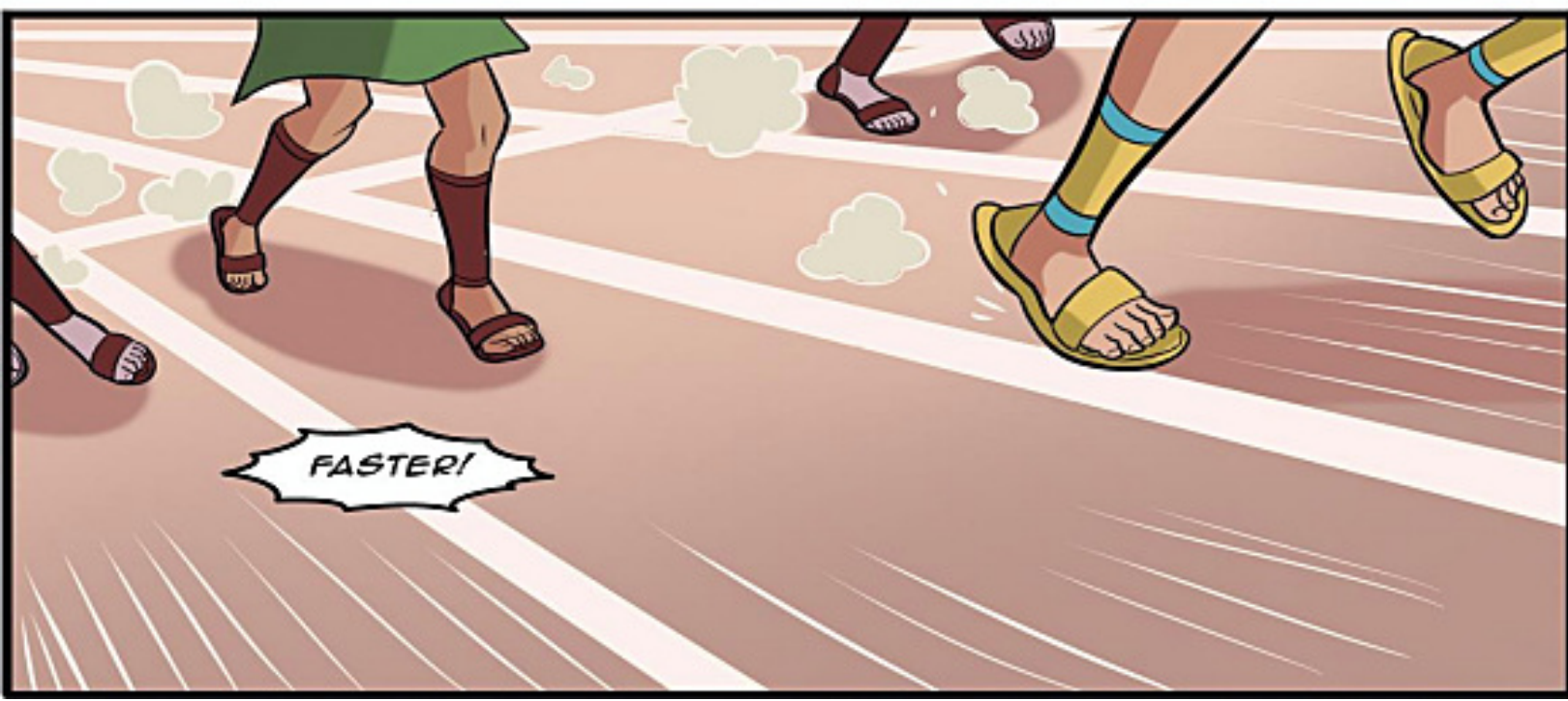
GO!

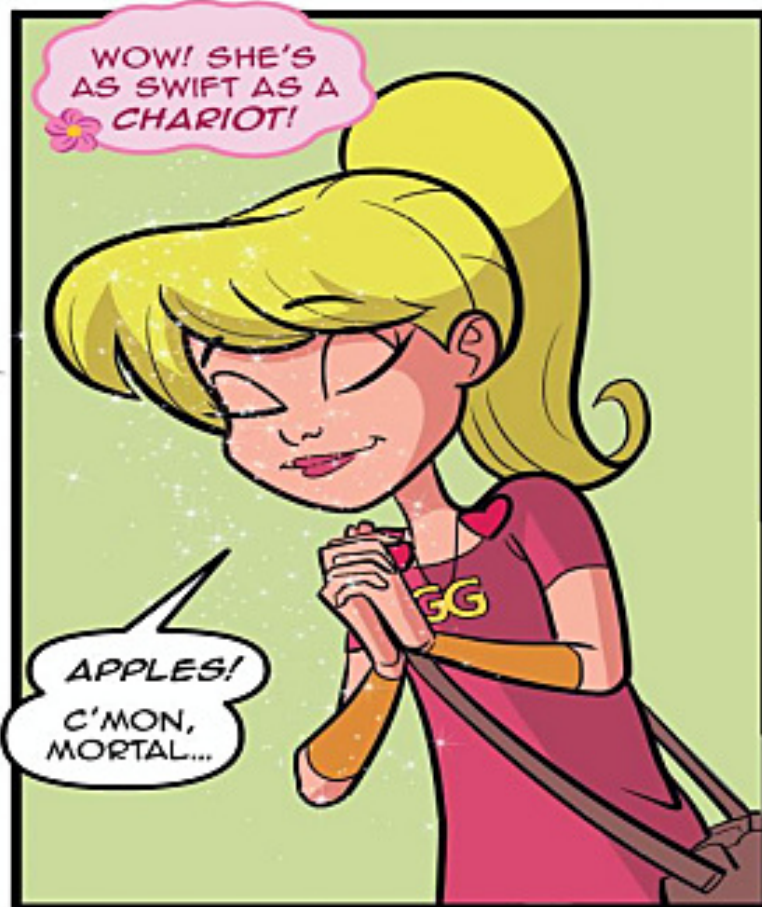


GO,
HIPPOMENES!



FASTER!





GO, GO!



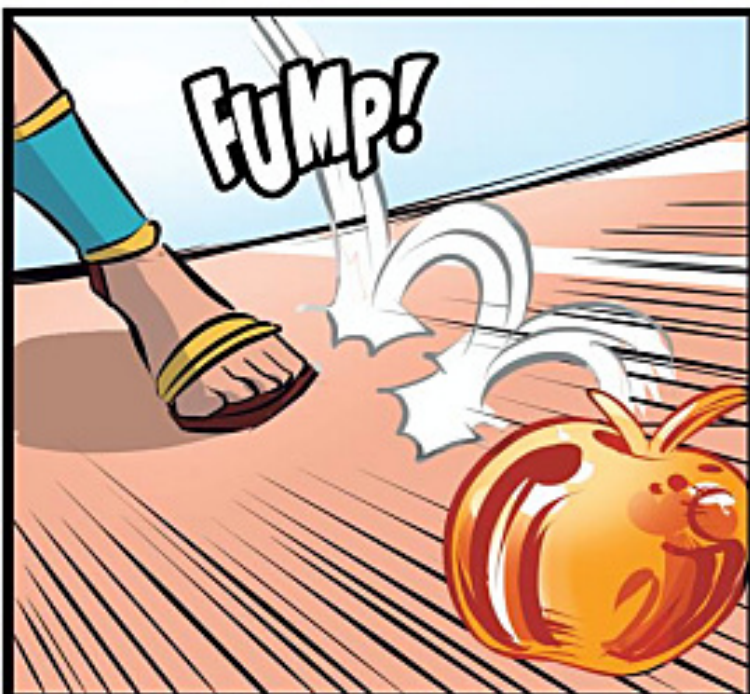
THAT'S IT!



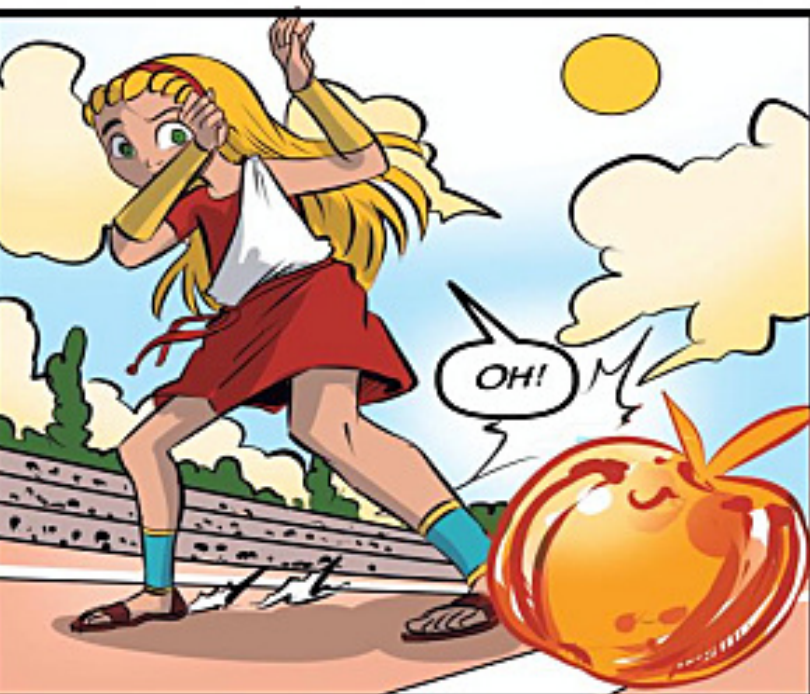
WOOSH!!!



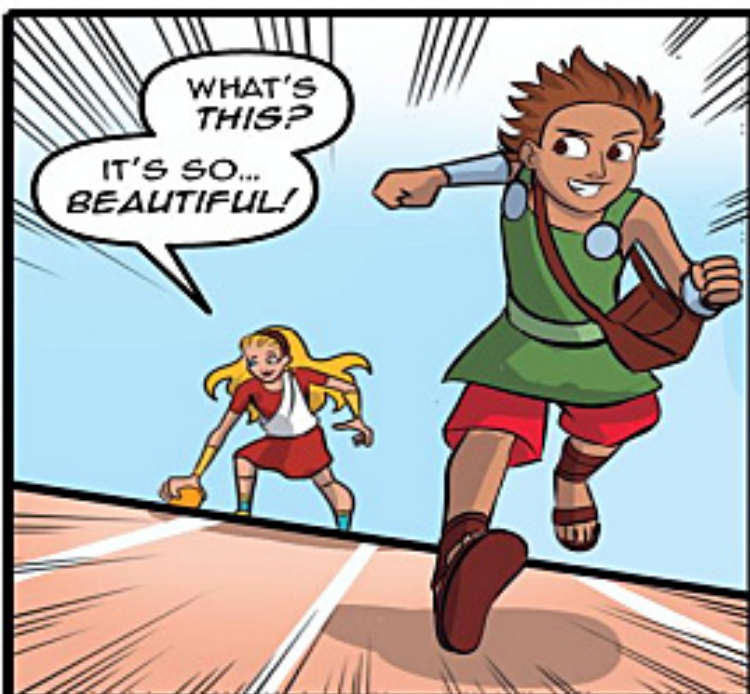
FUMP!

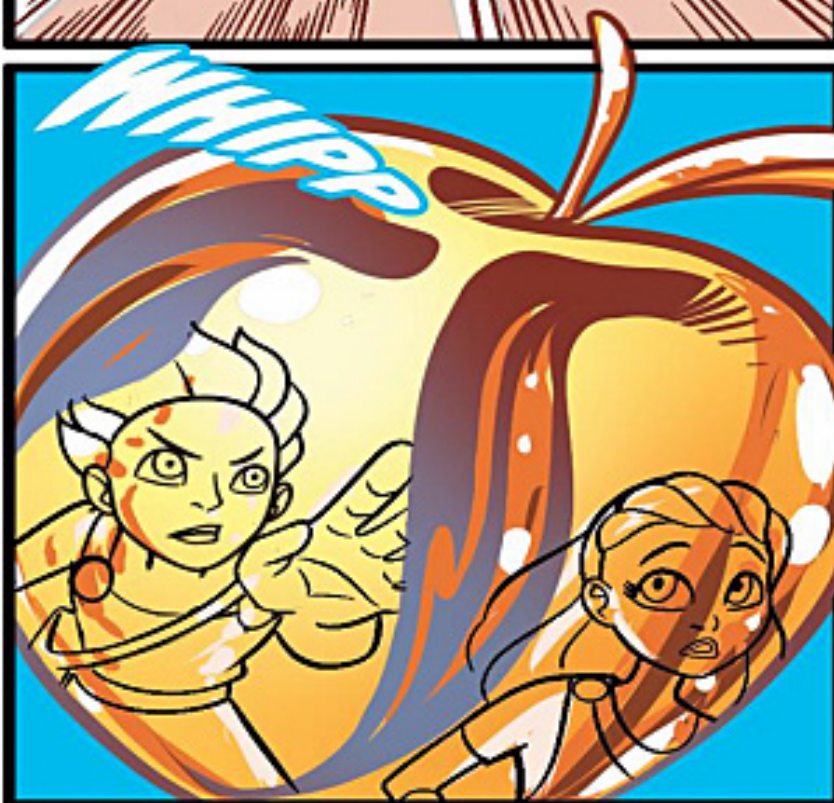
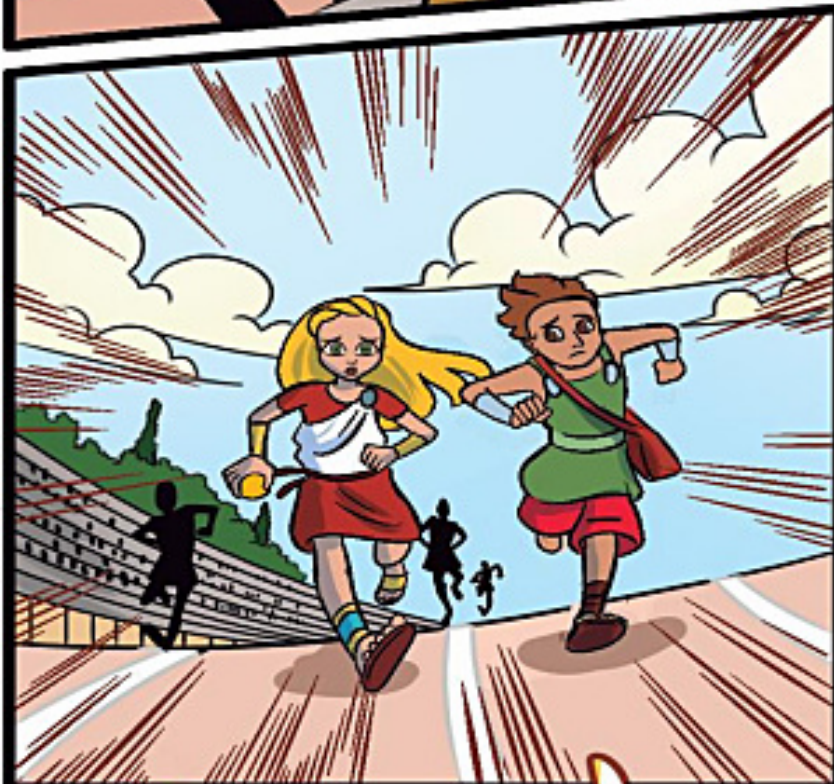


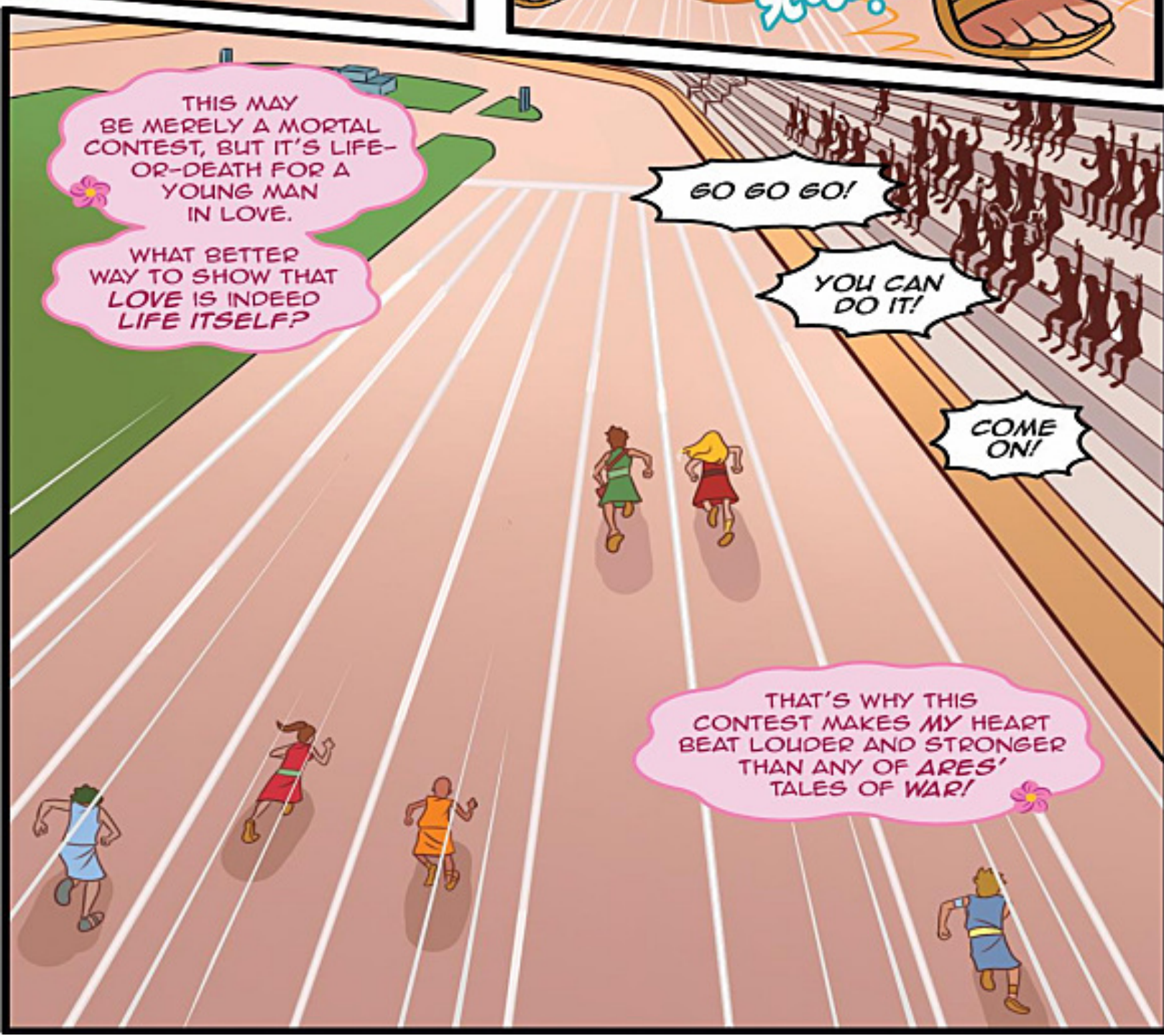
OH!

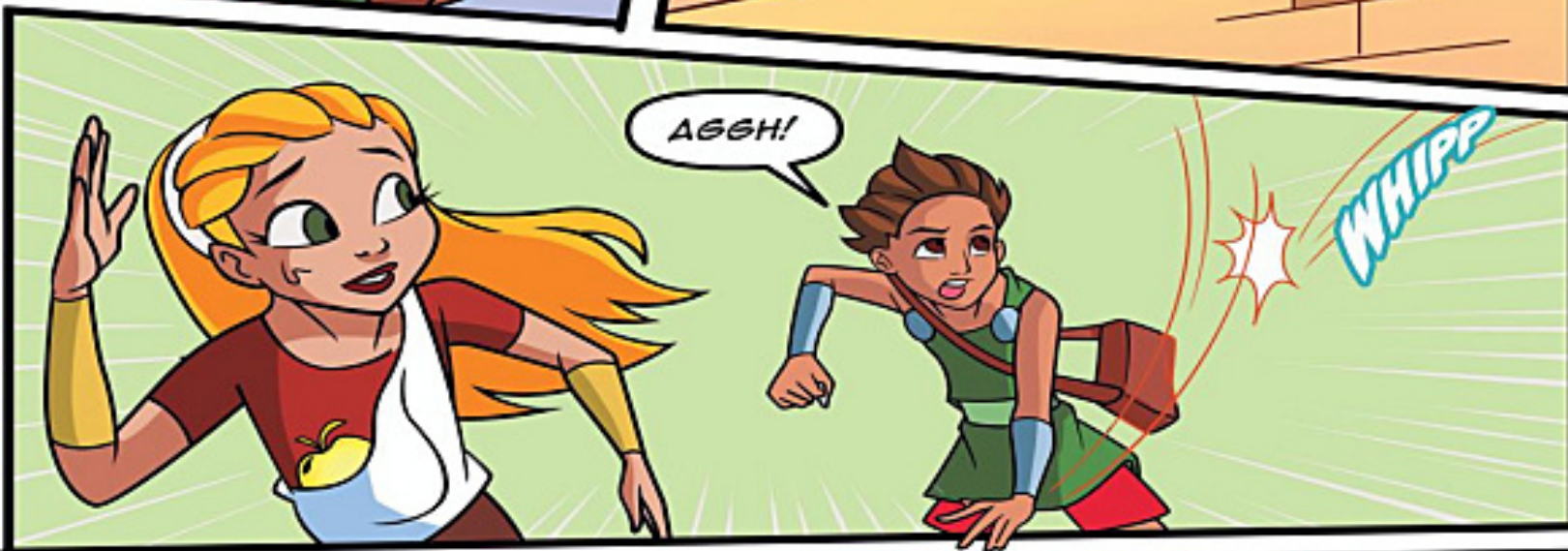
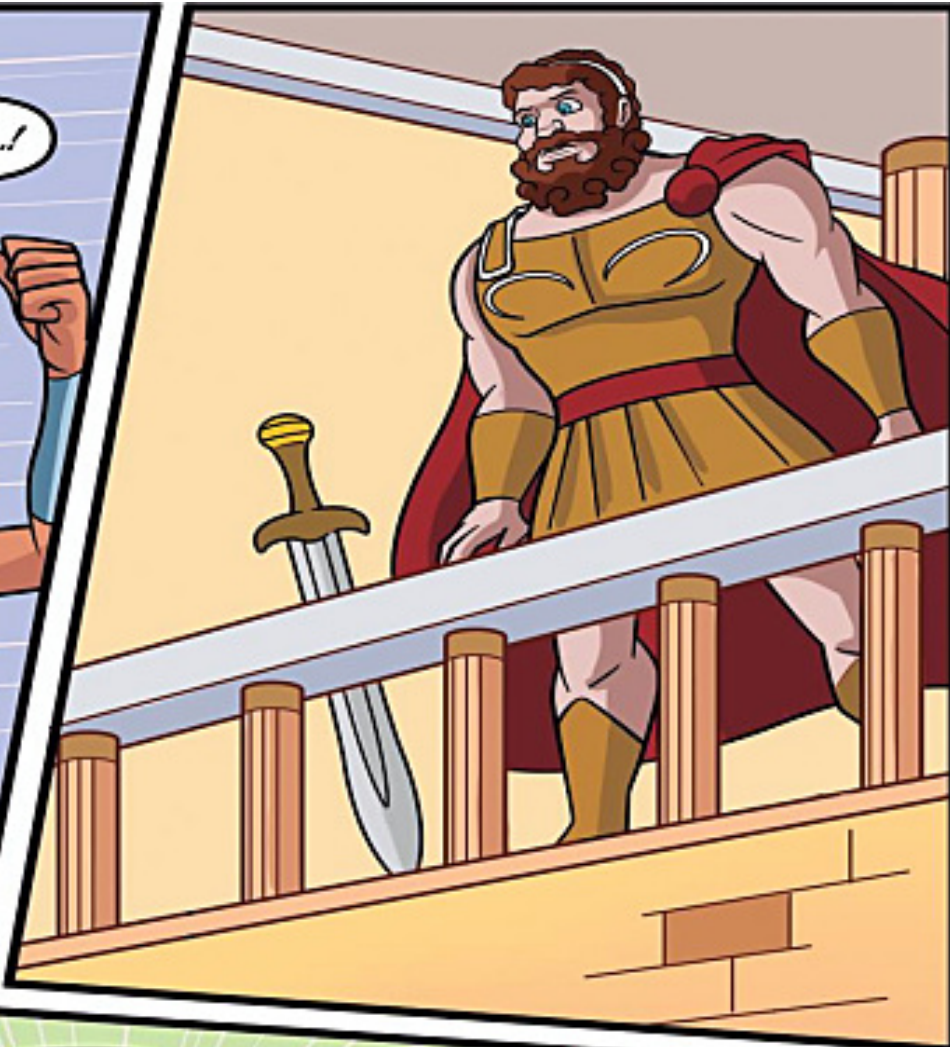


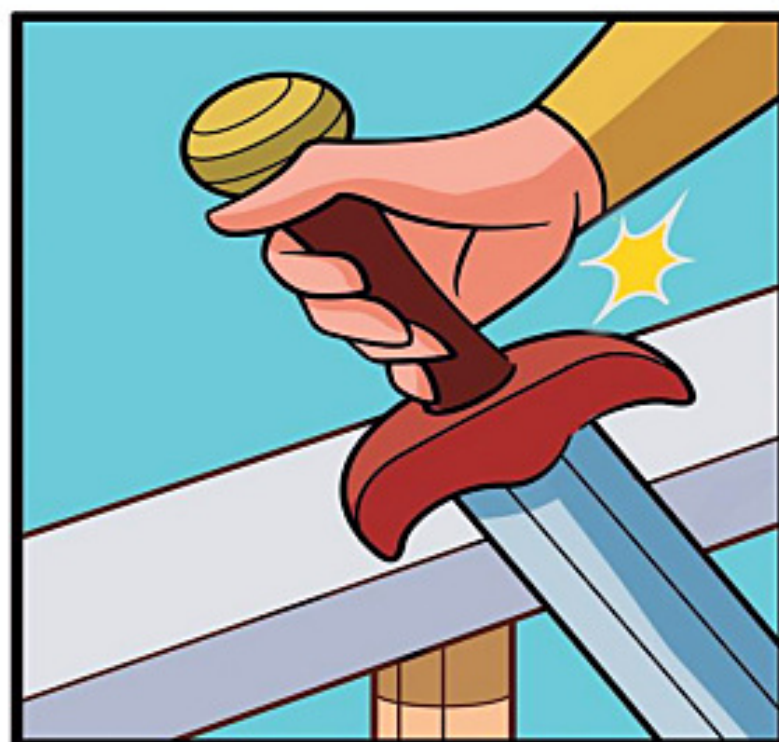
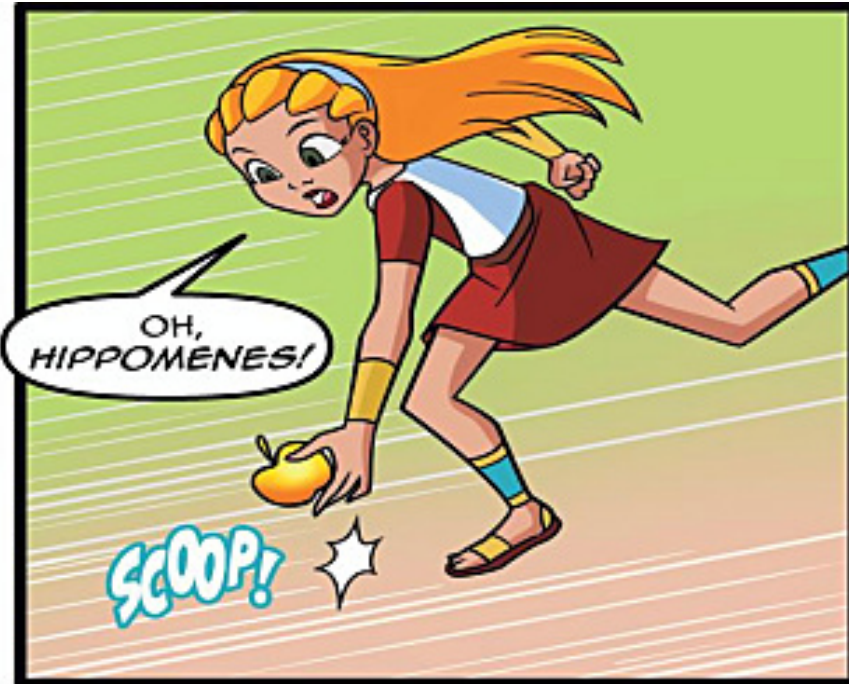
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S SO...
BEAUTIFUL!











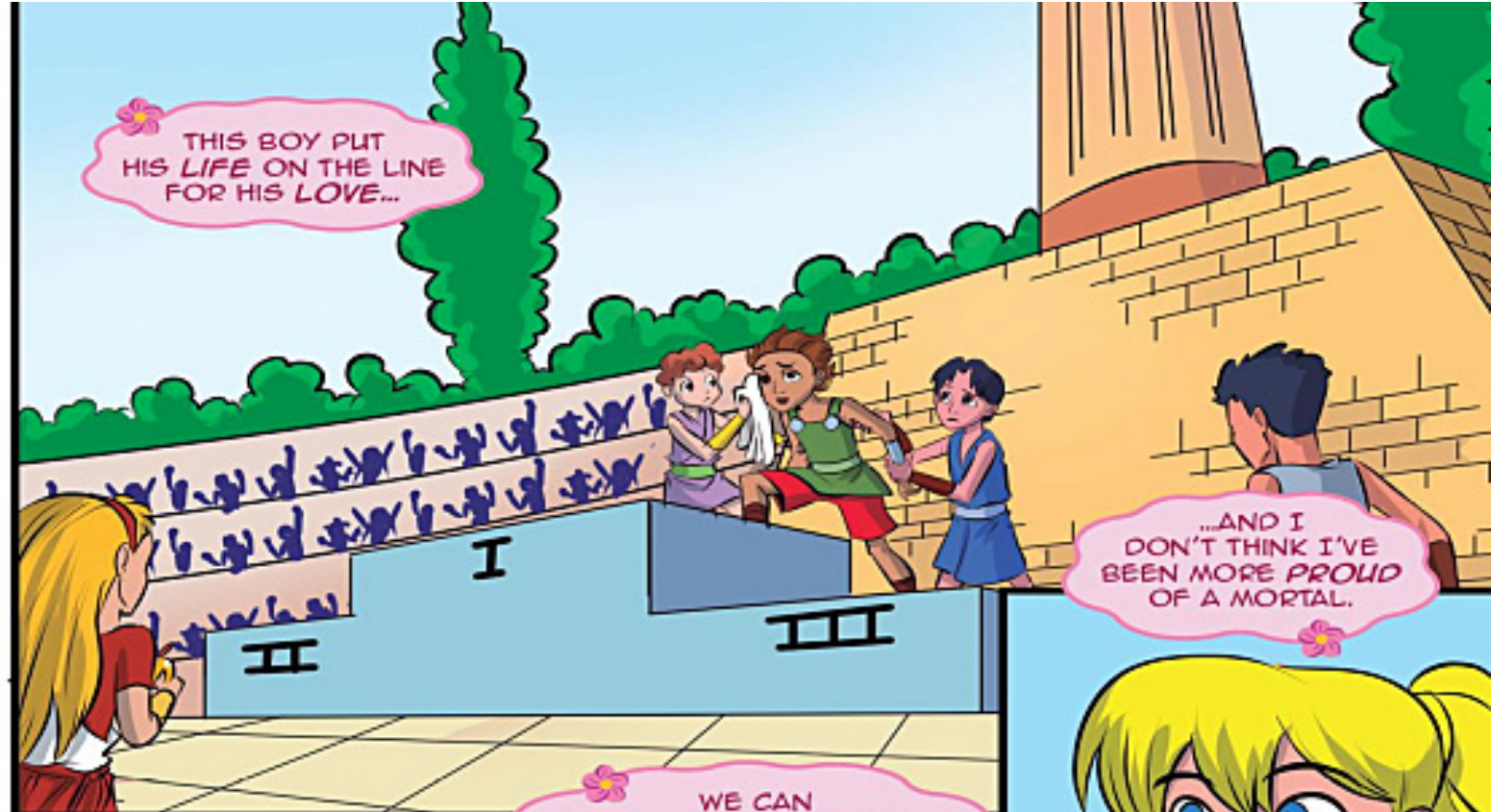


LRRRHH

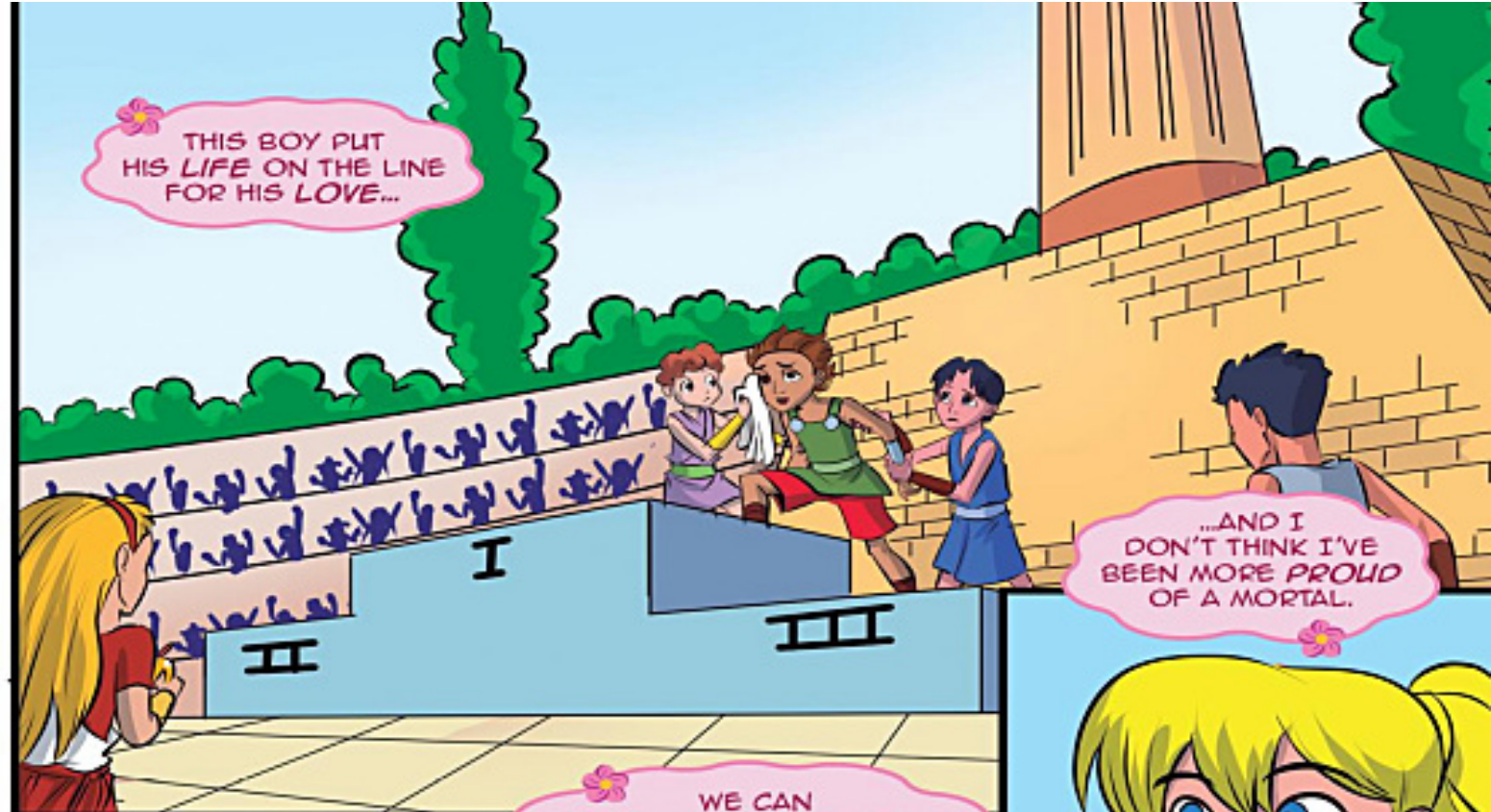
SWAPP!

HIPPOMENES...
...YOU'VE
WON!

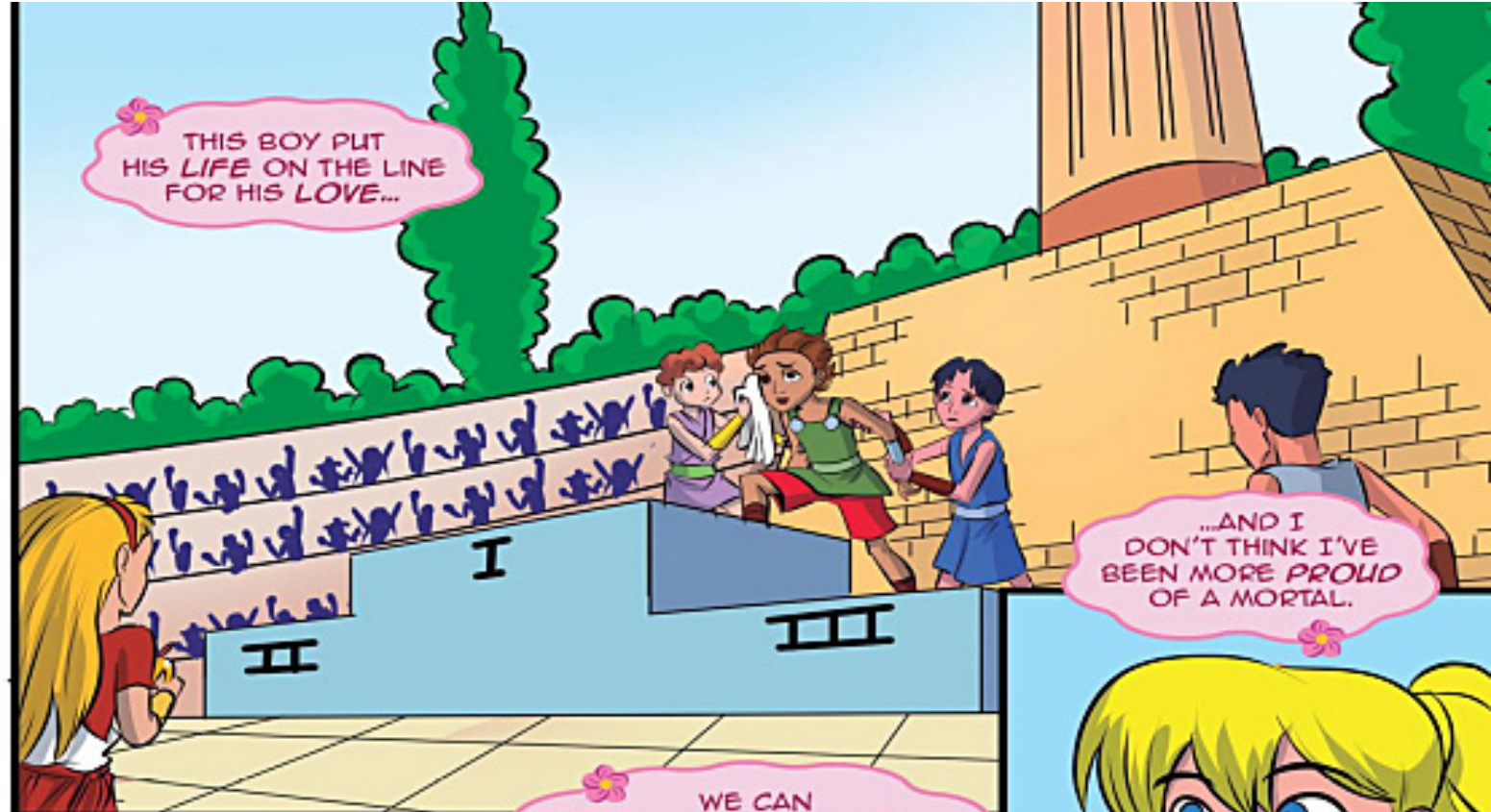




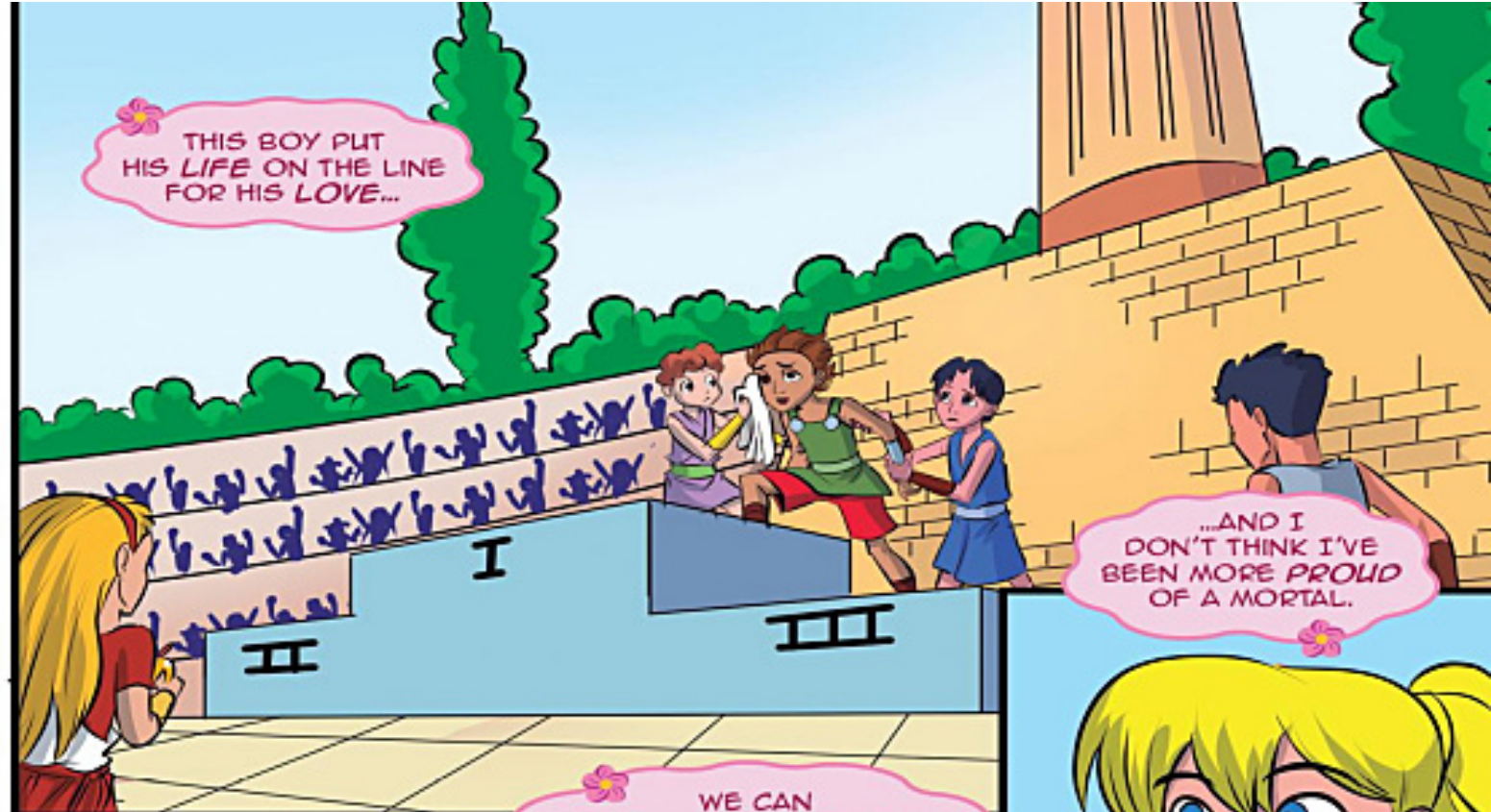
THIS BOY PUT
HIS LIFE ON THE LINE
FOR HIS LOVE...



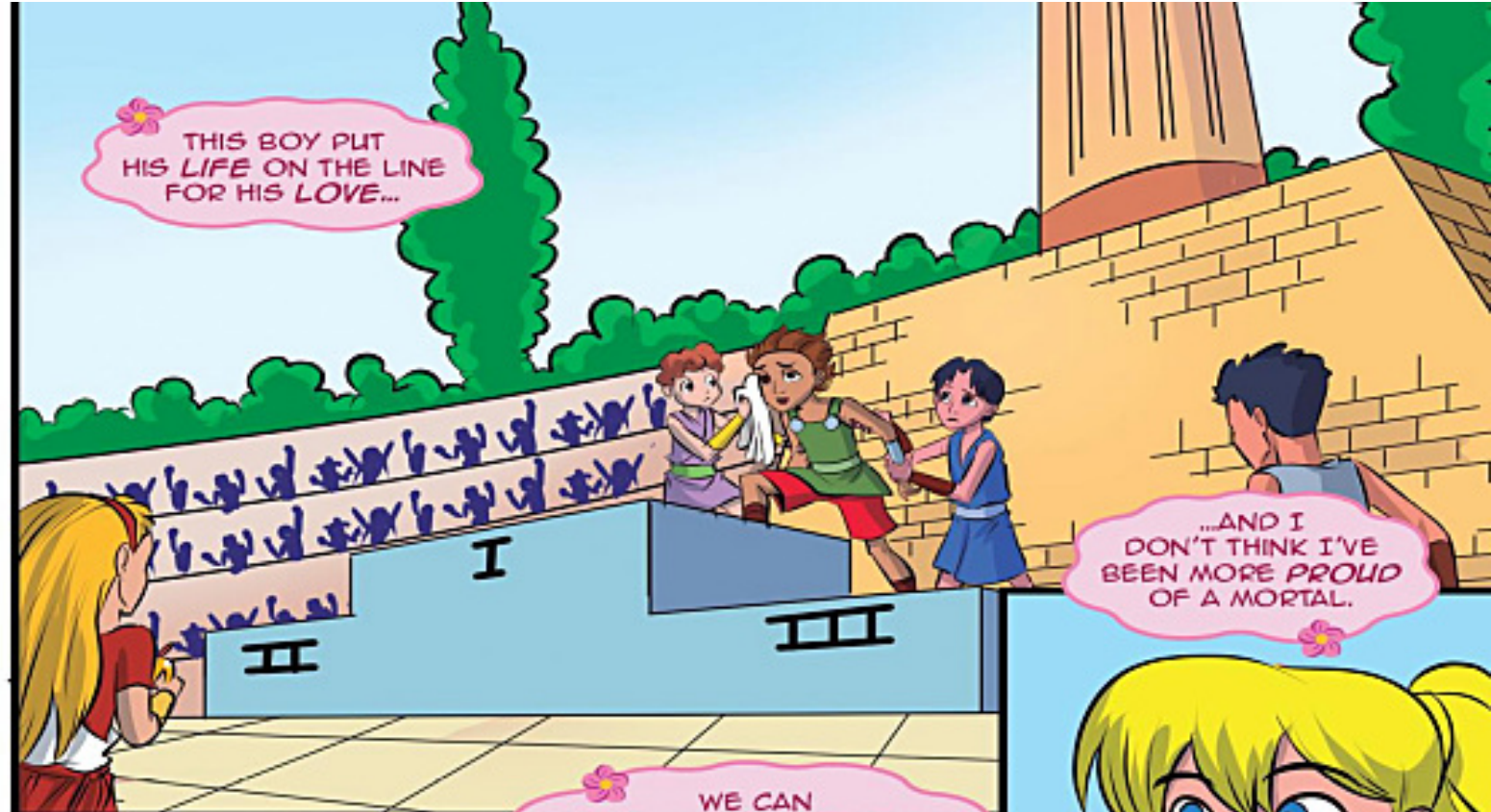
...AND I
DON'T THINK I'VE
BEEN MORE PROUD
OF A MORTAL.



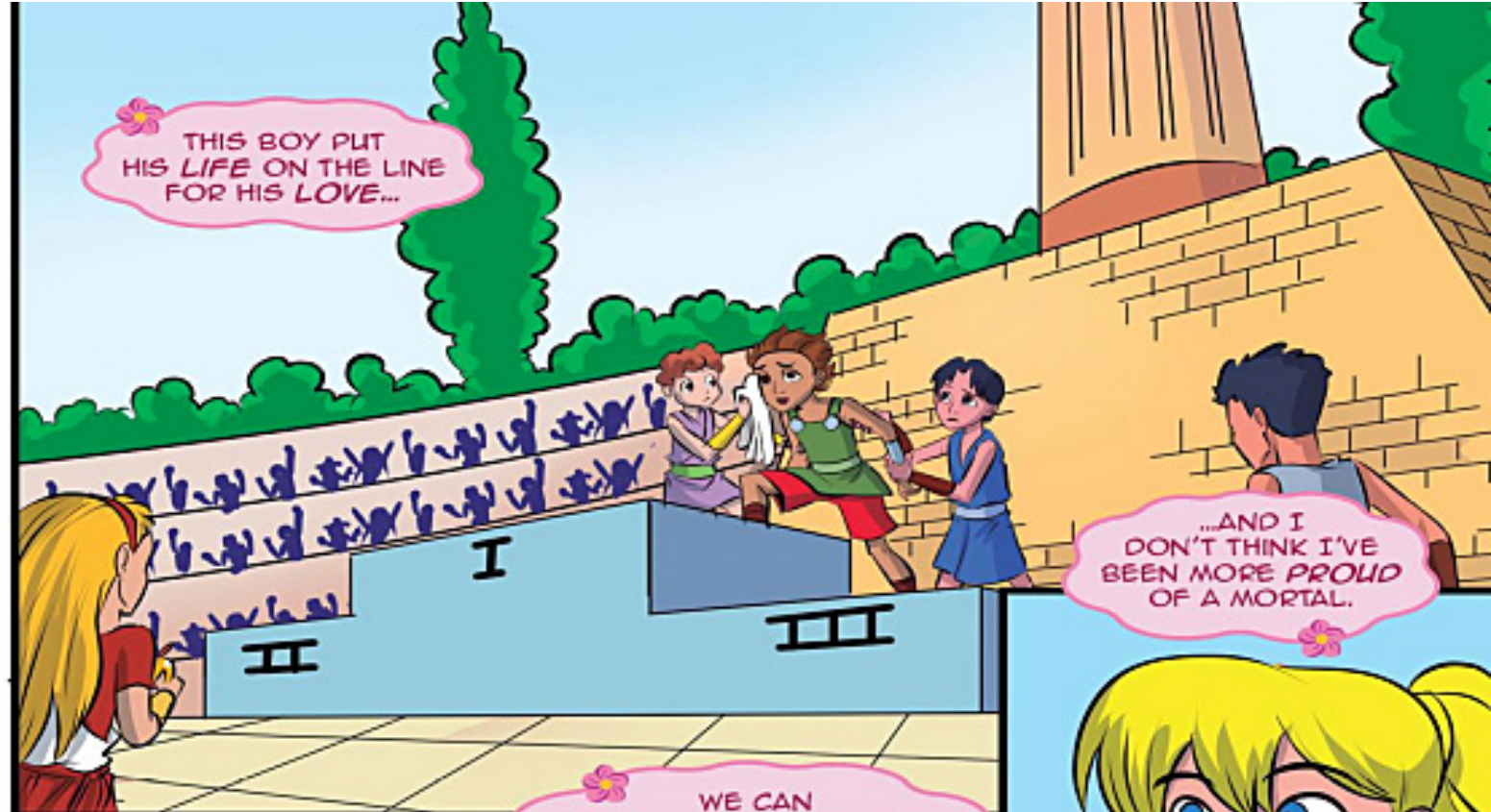
WE CAN
BARELY HEAR THE ROYAL
PRONOUNCEMENTS THROUGH
ALL THE YELLING AND
CHEERING...



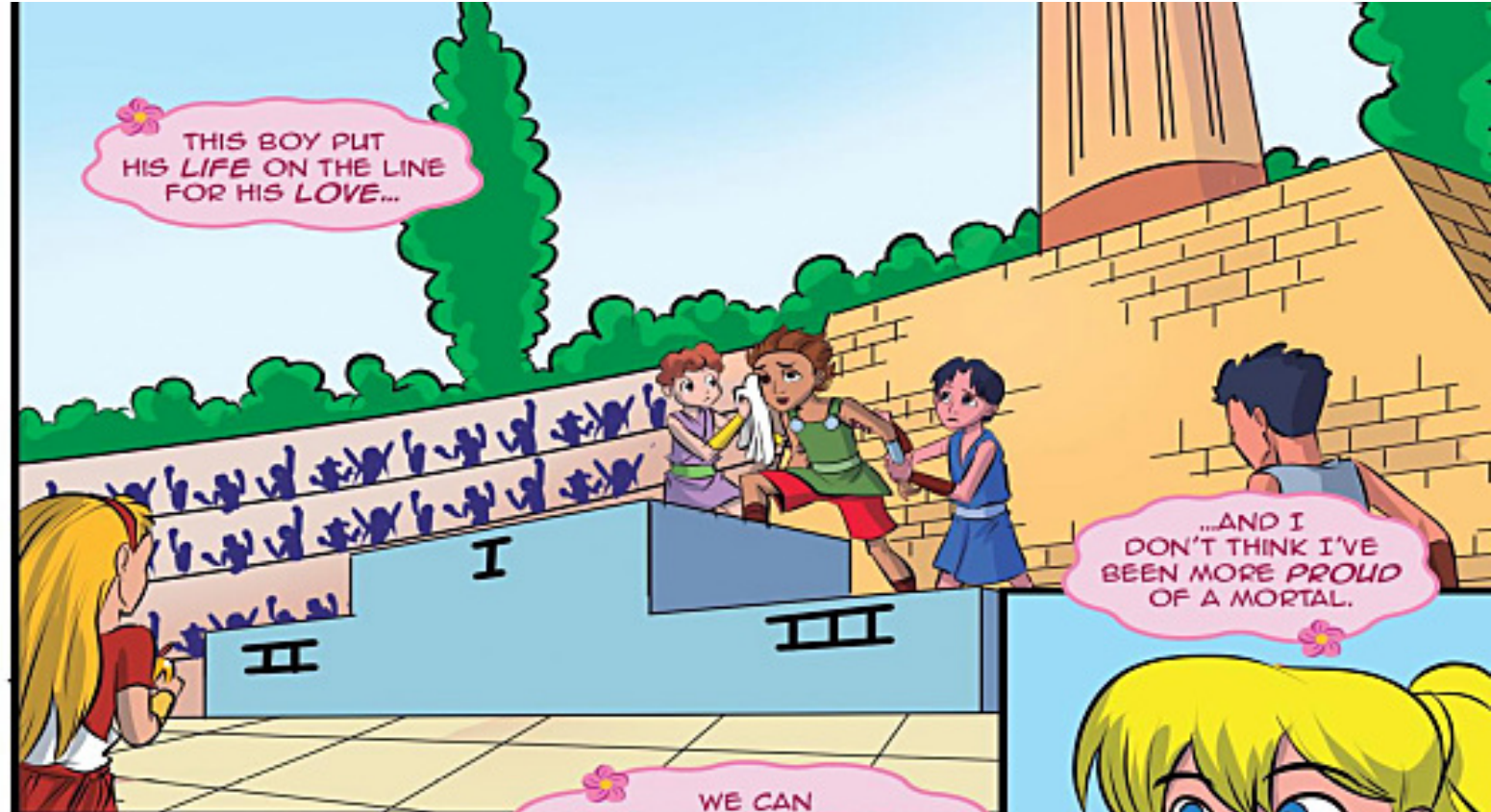
...INCLUDING
OUR OWN.



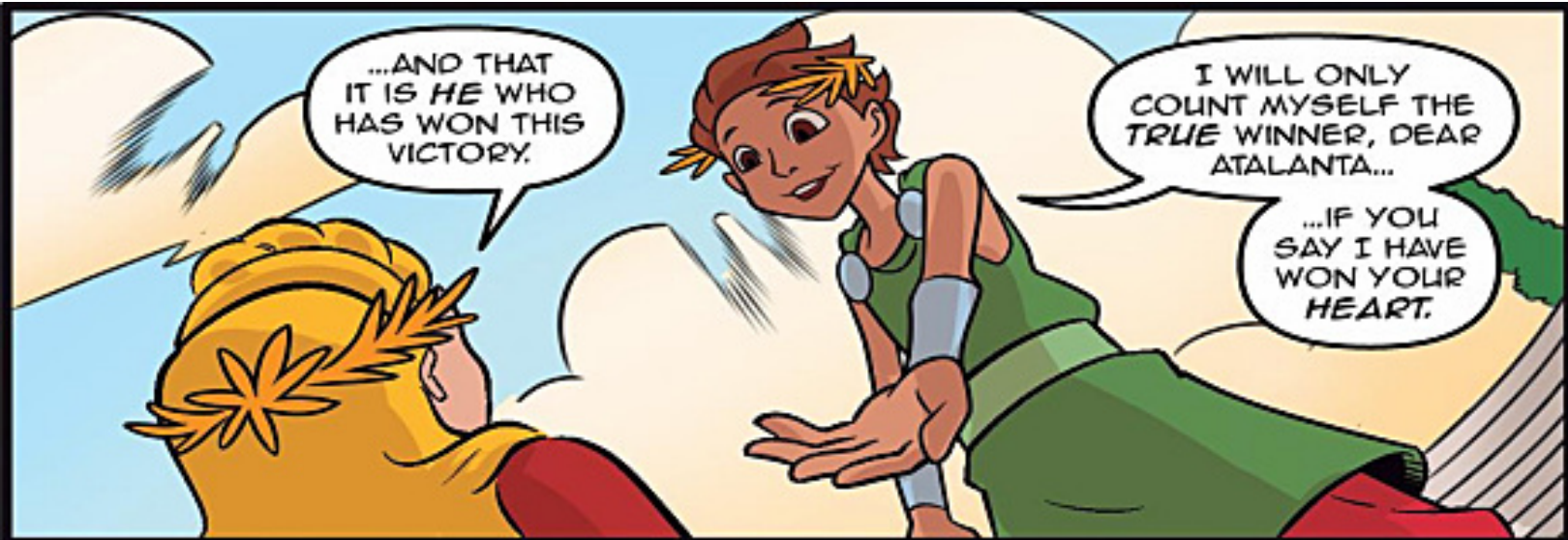
ONCE IT QUIETS
DOWN, ATALANTA CATCHES
HIPPOMENES' EYE AND
STEPS FORWARD!



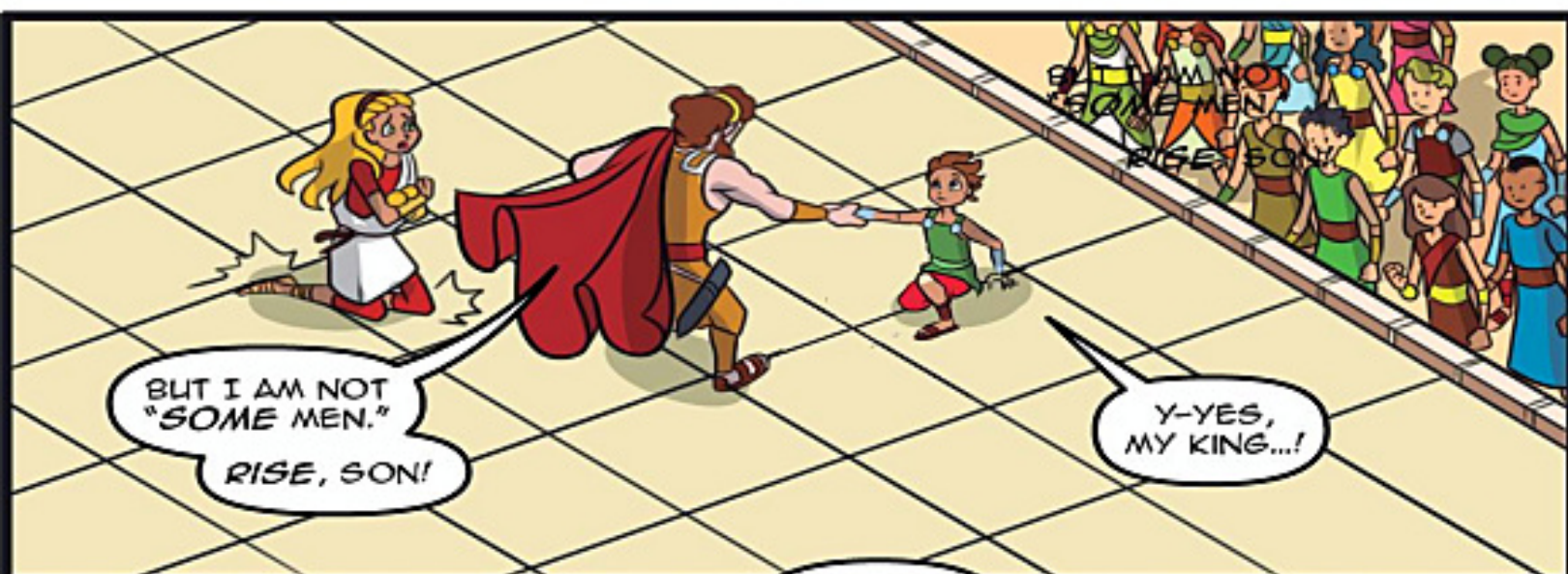
GOOD PEOPLE,
HIPPOMENES HAS
WON TODAY!



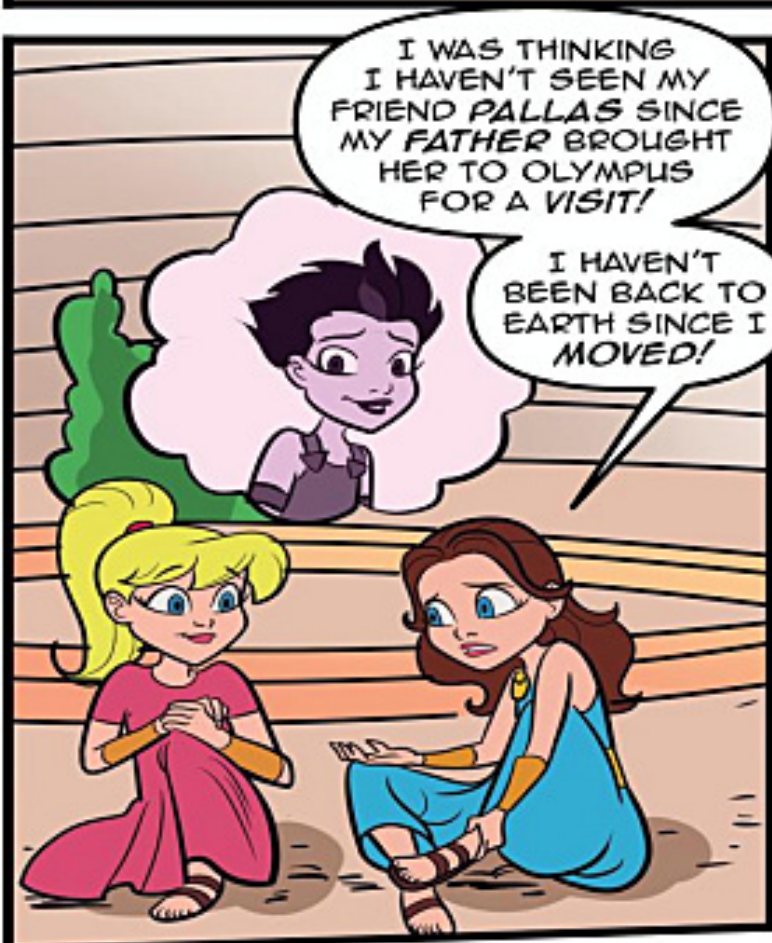
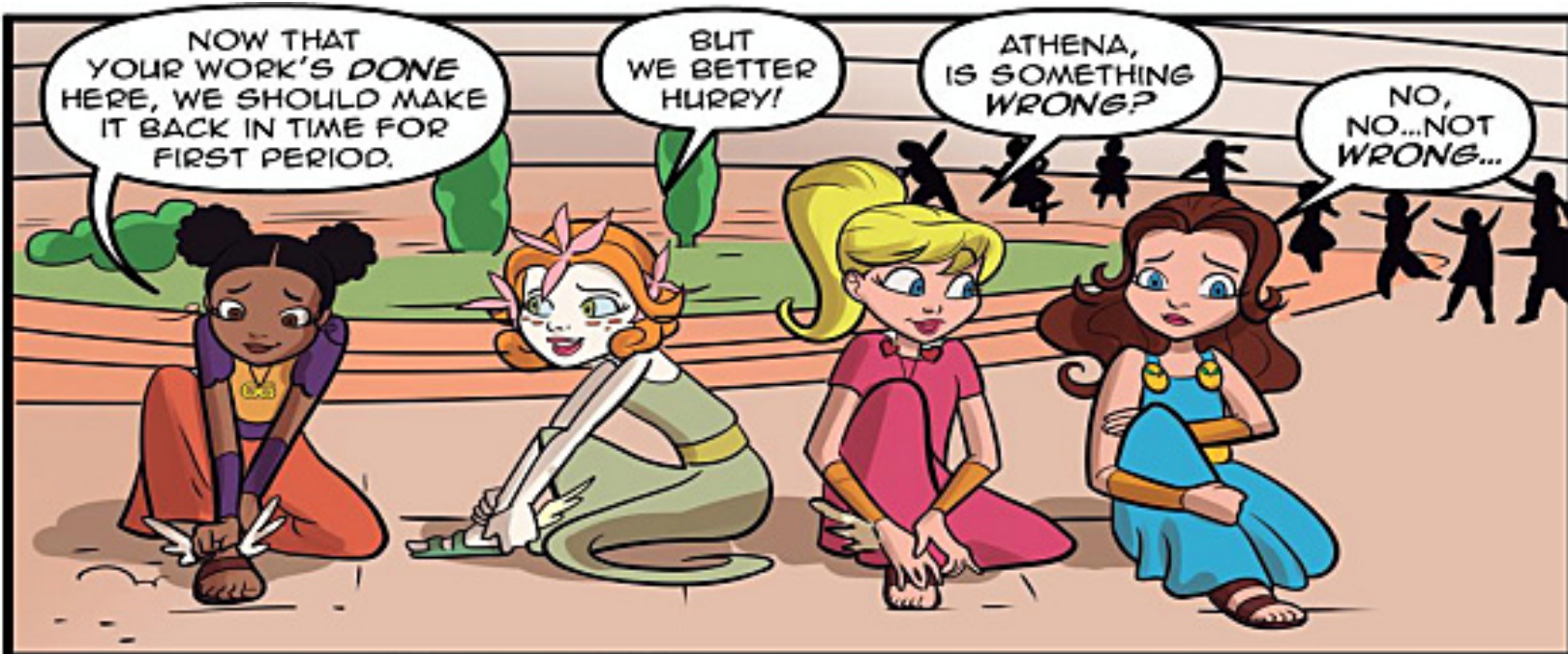
I AM GLAD
TO GIVE UP THE
RACE...











CHAPTER ELEVEN: PERFECT MATCHES

HEPHAESTUS SEEMS
AWFULLY GLAD TO JOIN US
FOR AMBROSIA SHAKES
AFTER CLASSES!

ATALANTA
WAS PRACTICALLY
SPELLBOUND WHEN SHE
SCOOPED UP YOUR FIRST
GOLDEN APPLE!

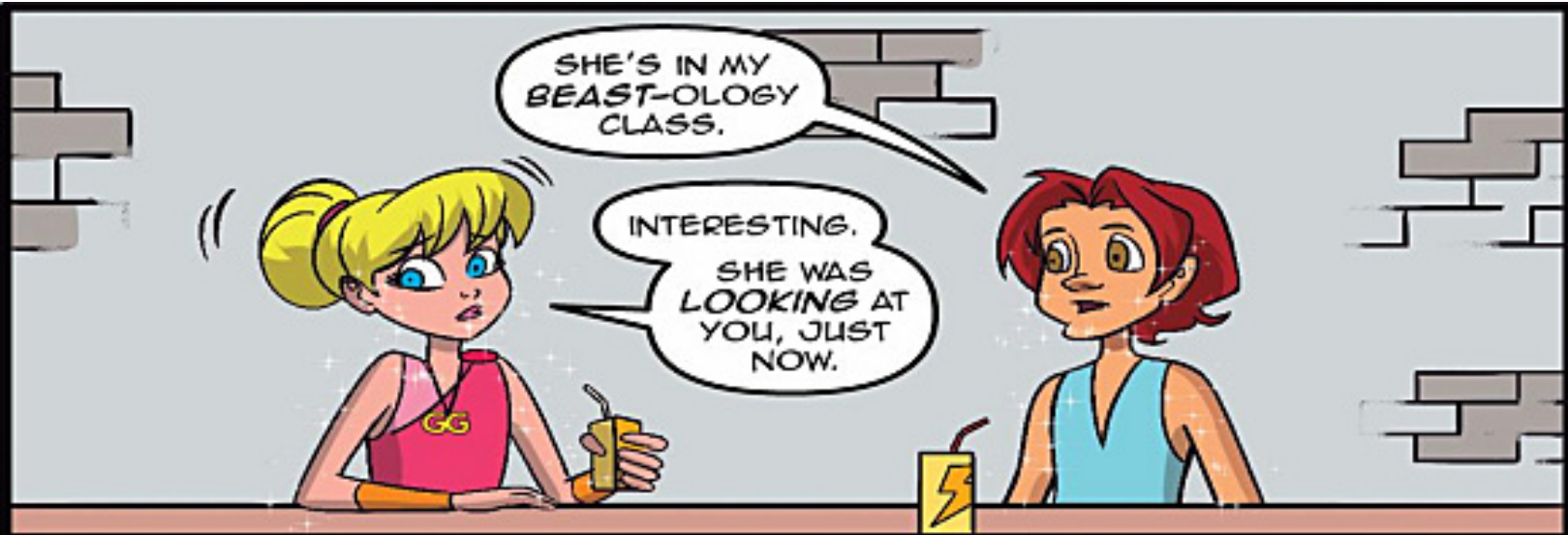
YOU
MADE IT HAPPEN,
HEPHAESTUS!

THE PLAN
WAS SOLID, AND
YOUR WORK WAS
PERFECT.

APHRODITE
AND I MADE A
GREAT TEAM
ON THAT!

WELL, YOU
KNOW...

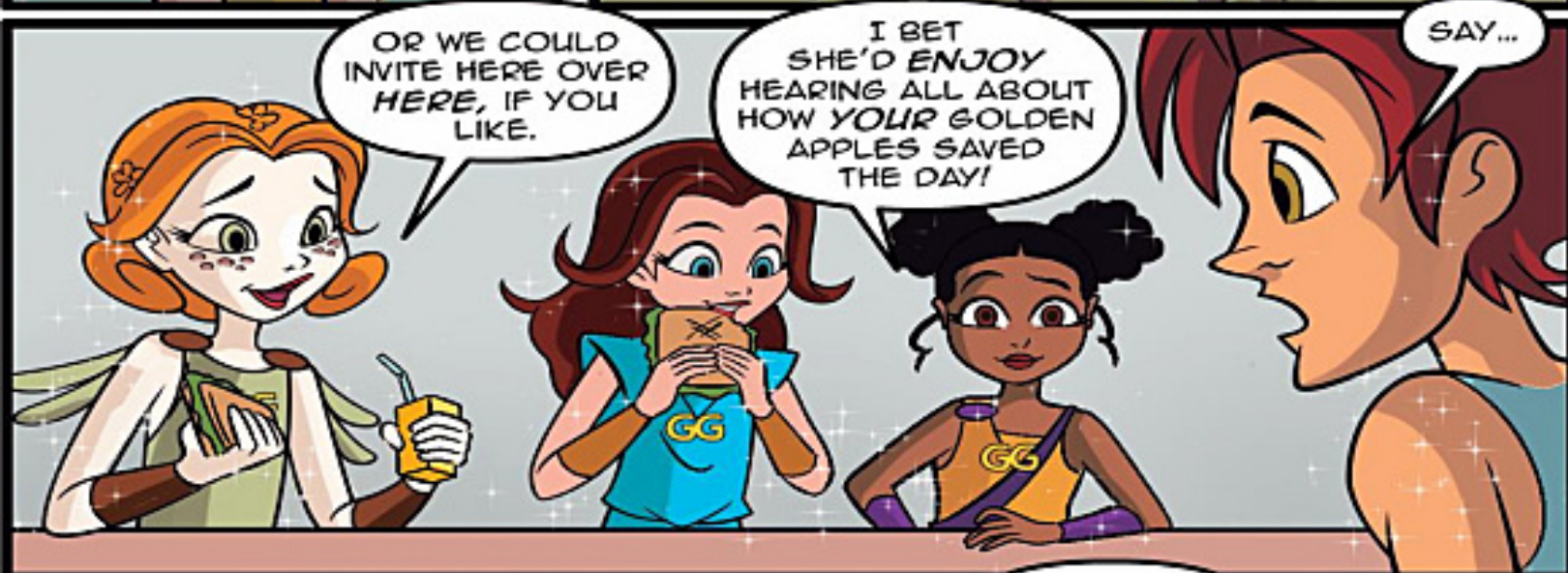






HEH.

MAYBE
YOU SHOULD
GO TALK TO
HER.



OR WE COULD
INVITE HER OVER
HERE, IF YOU
LIKE.

I BET
SHE'D ENJOY
HEARING ALL ABOUT
HOW YOUR GOLDEN
APPLES SAVED
THE DAY!

SAY...



...ARE YOU
TRYING TO FIX
ME UP?

HEPHAESTUS
MAY NOT BE ESPECIALLY
CUTE TO ME...

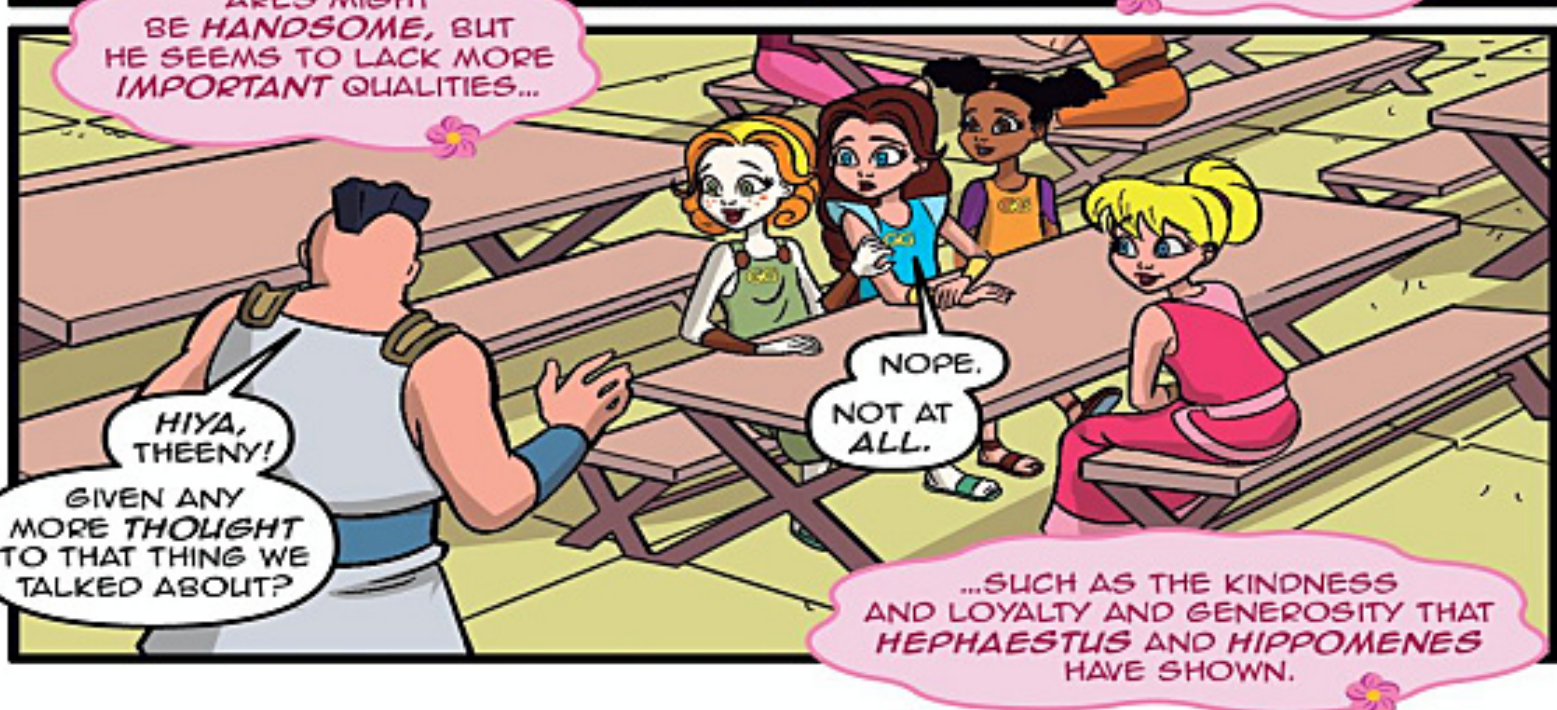
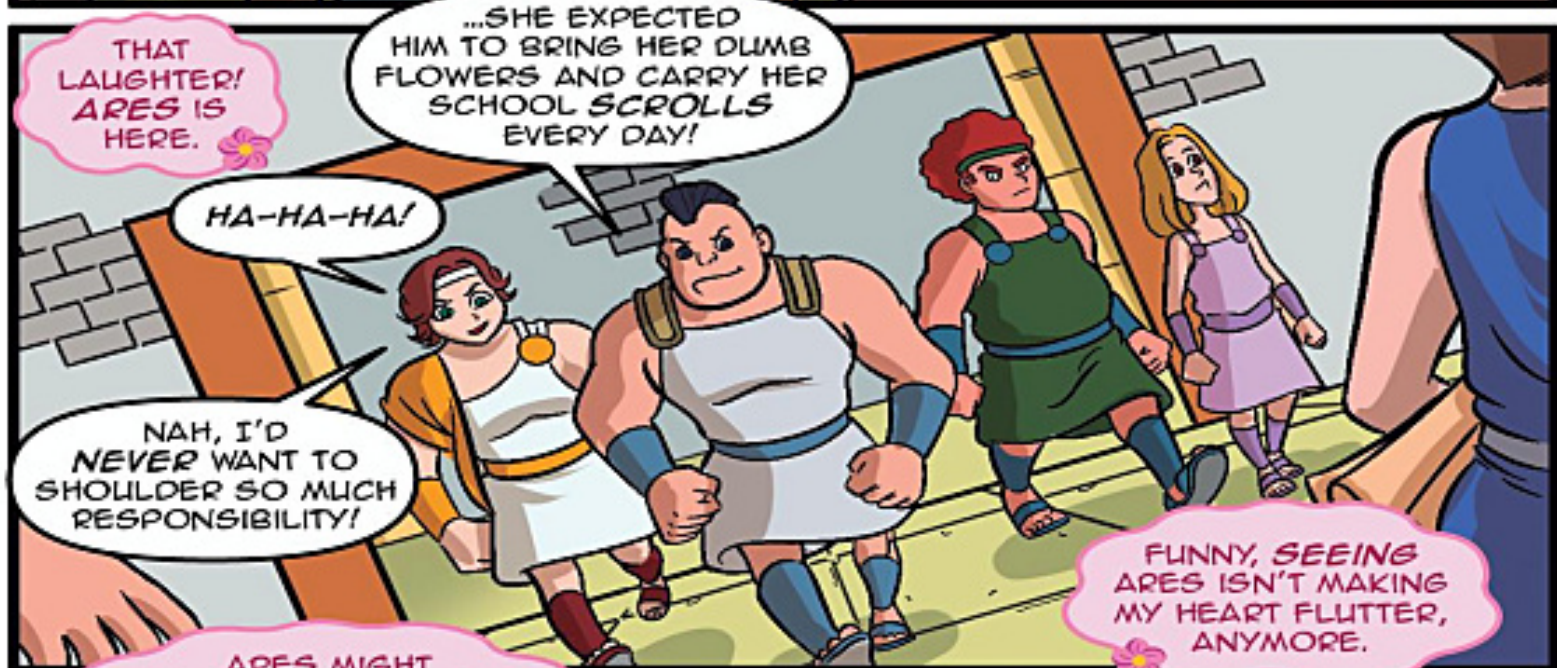
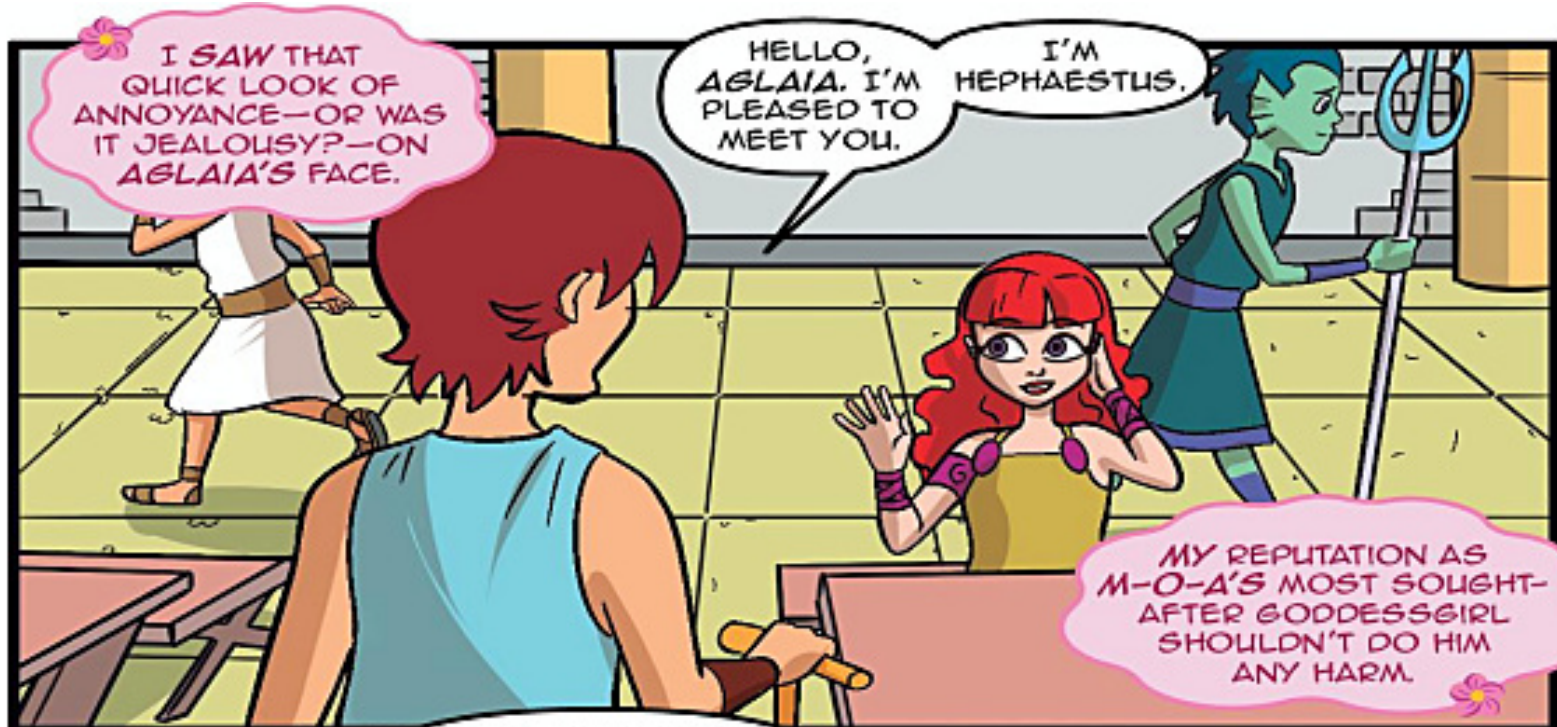


OF
COURSE
I'M TRYING TO
FIX YOU UP!

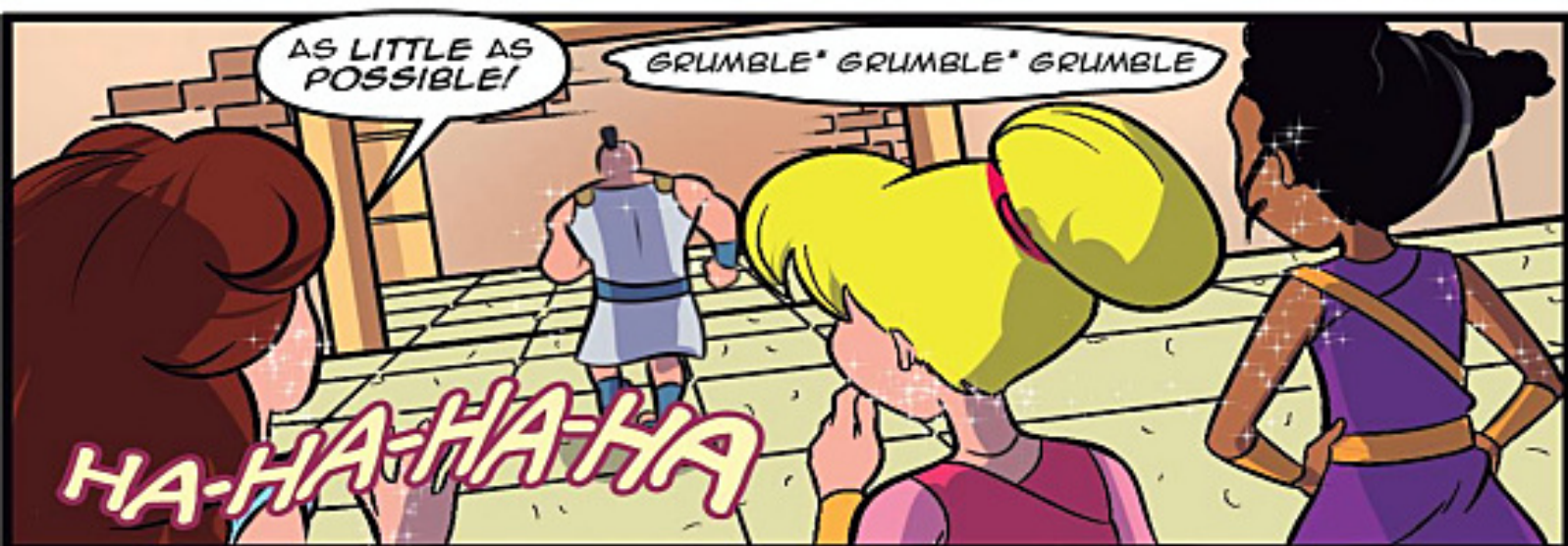
AFTER
ALL, I'M THE
GODDESSGIRL
OF LOVE!

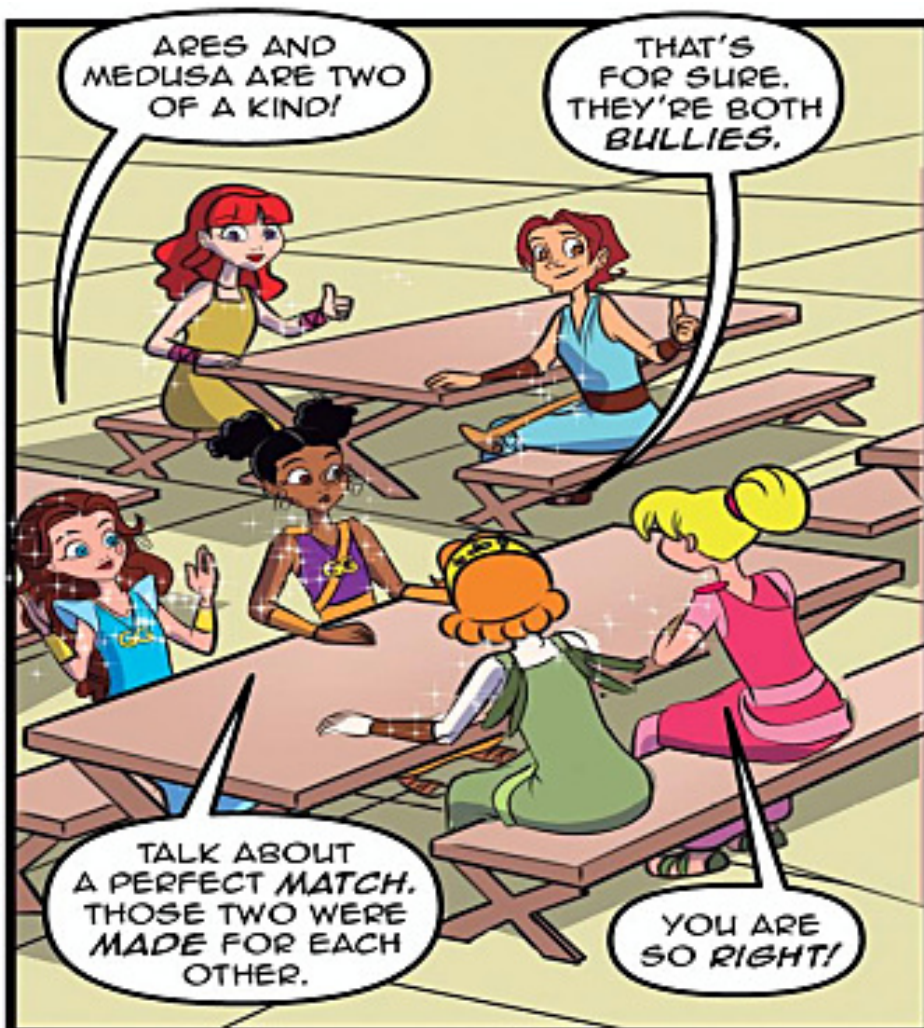
...BUT SOMETHING ABOUT
THE SPARKLE IN HIS EYES MAKES
HIM ATTRACTIVE, AND HIS INNER
BEAUTY!

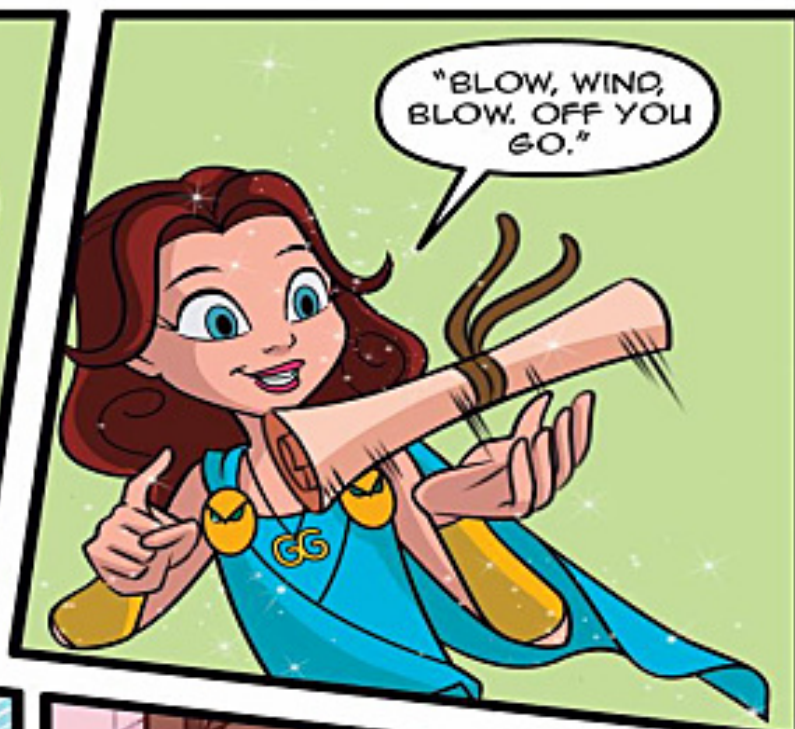
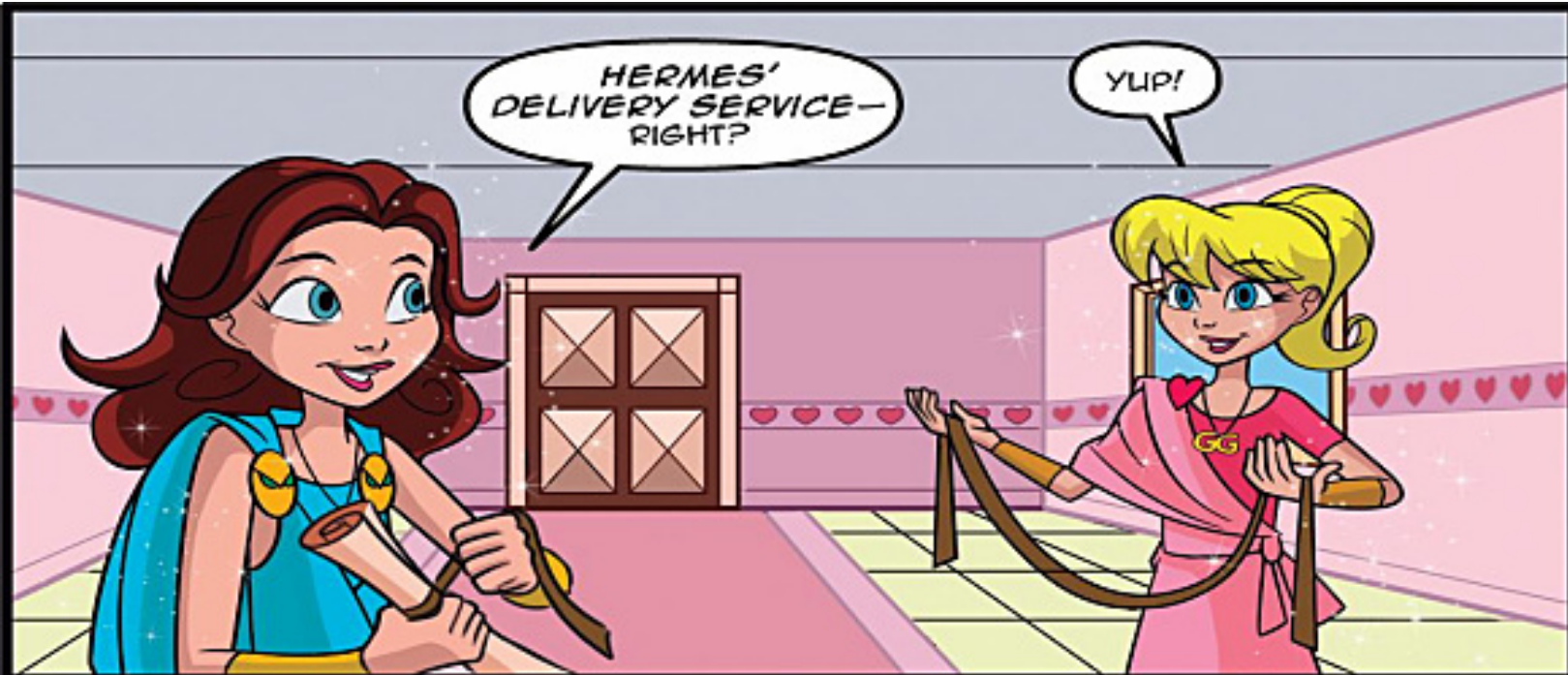


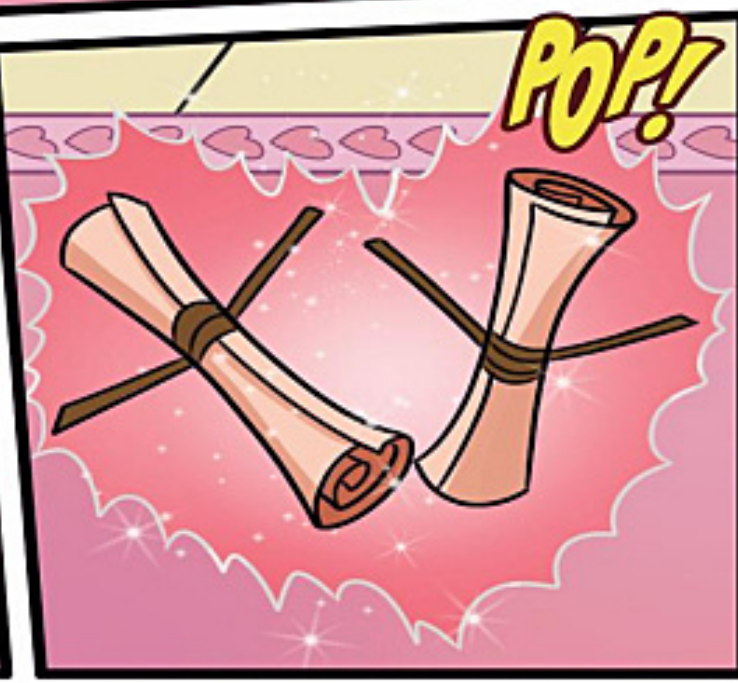
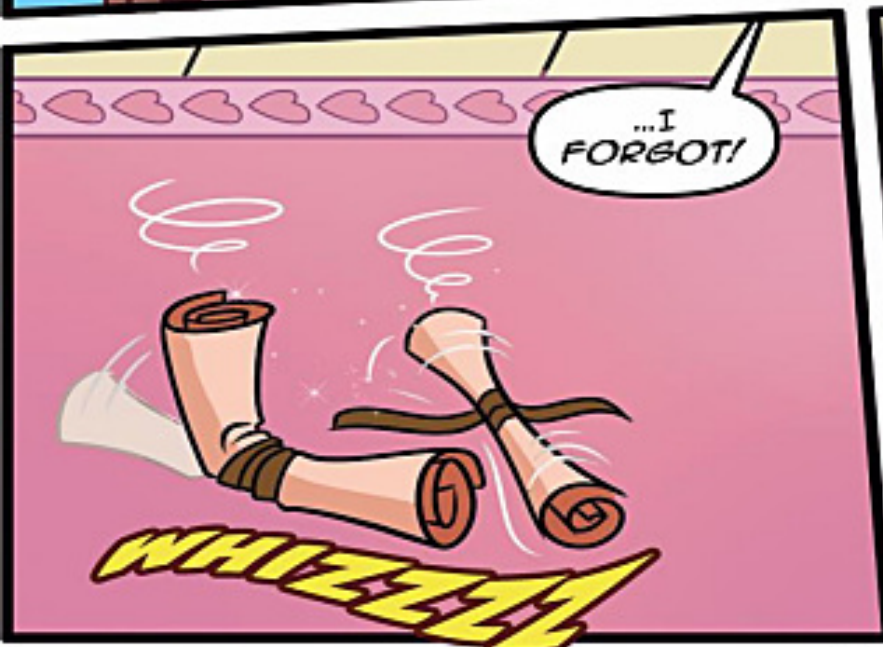


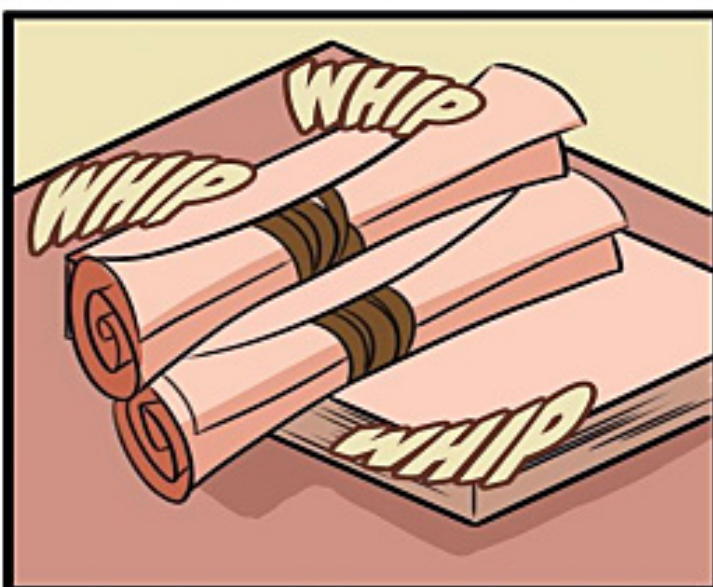












CHAPTER TWELVE: RED ROSES

EVERYTHING'S
DROPPED OFF!

WE
MADE IT THROUGH
LUNCHTIME AND ALL OF OUR
CLASSES WITHOUT ONCE
MENTIONING IT.

NOW THE
FUN STARTS!

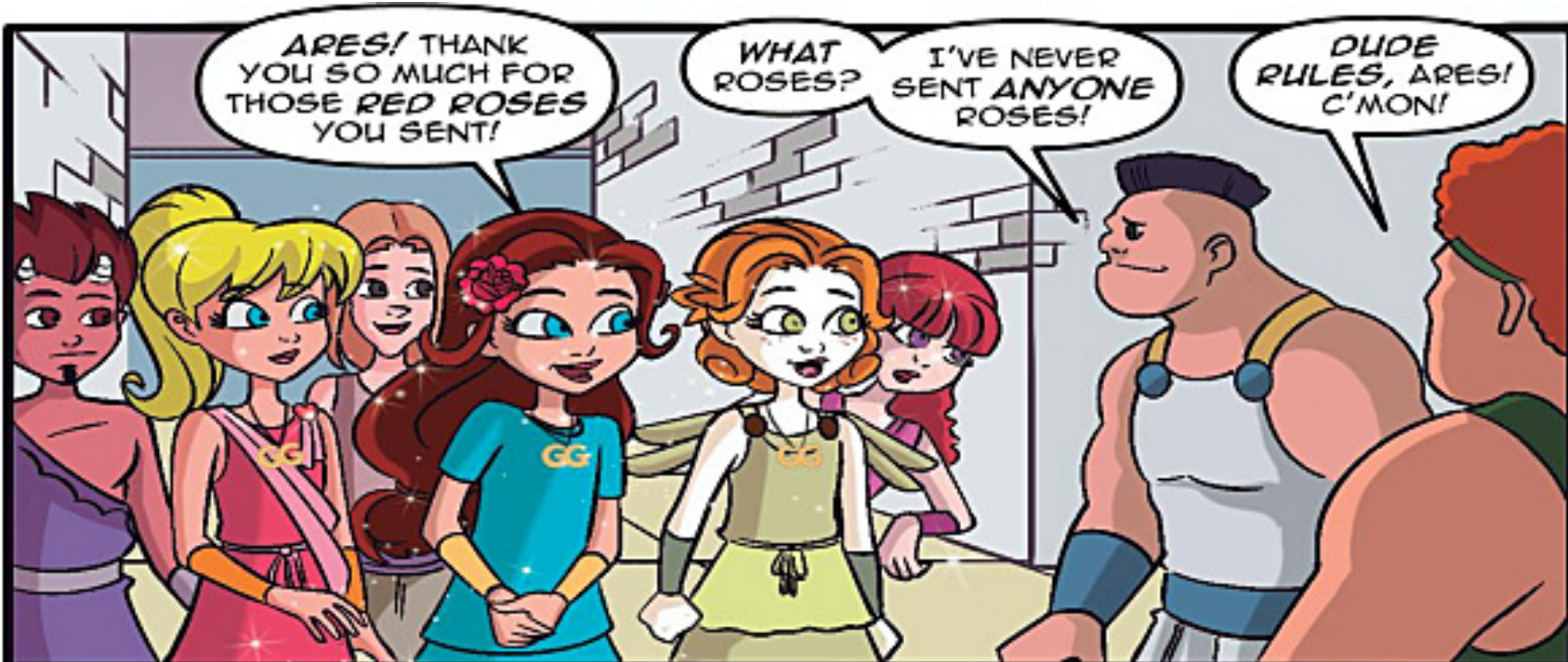
ARE!
WOOF!

HELLO,
ARES!

RUFF

YEAH.
WHAT?

HIS USUAL
CHARMING SELF,
I SEE!



OF COURSE MEDUSA
AND PHEME ARE GOSSIPING
ABOUT THIS!

WHAT DO
YOU KNOW?

WHEN DID
YOU KNOW
IT?

HERMES'
DELIVERY SERVICE
DID DROP OFF AT
ATHENA'S DOOR
THIS MORNING.

I DARTED
OUT TO SEE, BUT
I DIDN'T GET TO LEARN
WHO THEY WERE
FROM.

NOW WE
KNOW.

HMMM.
DO WE...?

A GODBOY
COULD WIN ANY
GIRL'S HEART WITH
FLOWERS LIKE
THAT.

RIGHT,
ATHENA?

SIGH
SO
TRUE!

OMIGODDESS!

I CAN SEE
IT IN HIS EYES! HE'S
CALCULATING HOW
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THIS!

HMMM.
WELL...

...ACTUALLY...

WHY DIDN'T
I SEE THIS
BEFORE?

HE'S BETTING
ATHENA IN LOVE WILL
CHANGE HER MIND ABOUT
SPEAKING TO ZEUS
ON HIS BEHALF!

...I GUESS
MAYBE I DID
SEND THOSE
FLOWERS.

SO
GLAD YOU
LIKE THEM.

OH,
I DO!

BUT, OF
COURSE, I CAN'T
KEEP THEM.

HUH?

OW!

OUT OF
MY WAY!
MOVE,
I SAID!

OOOF!

SNAP

SHIELD
YOUR EYES!

IT'S
MEDUSA!

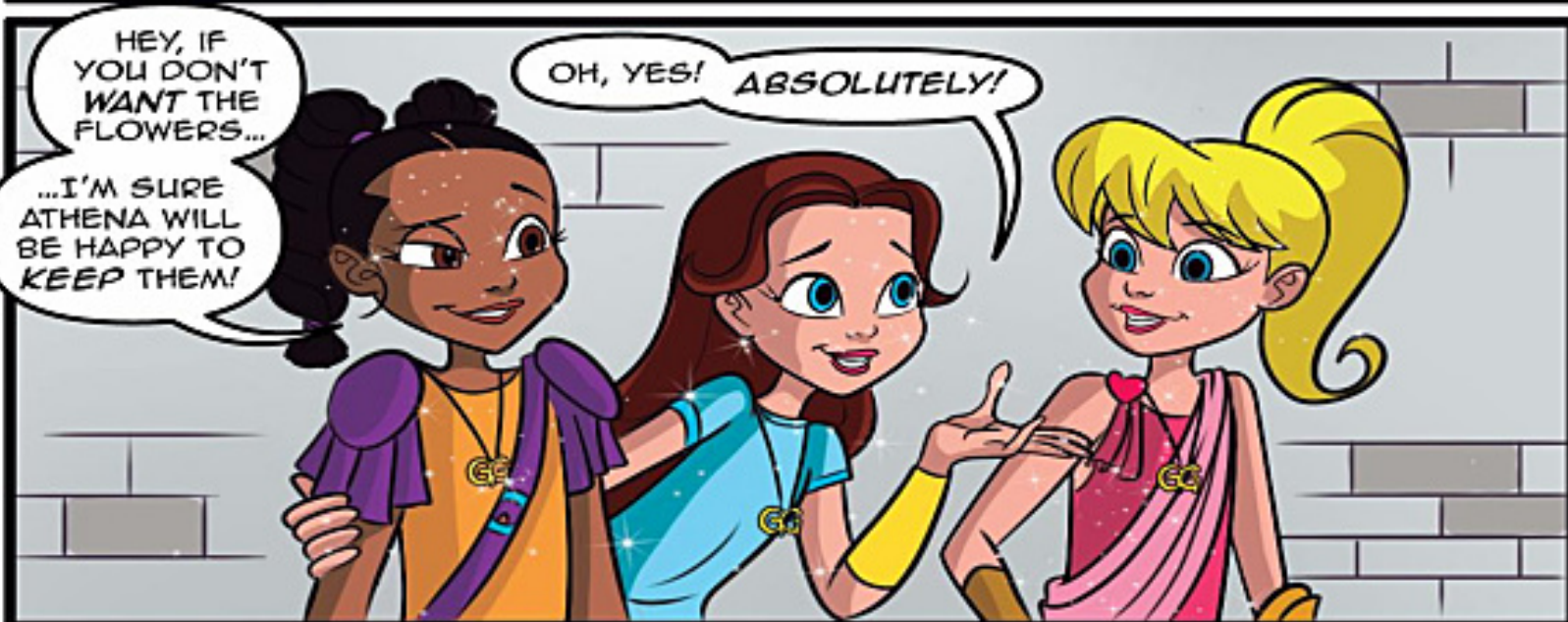
DUCK AND
COVER!

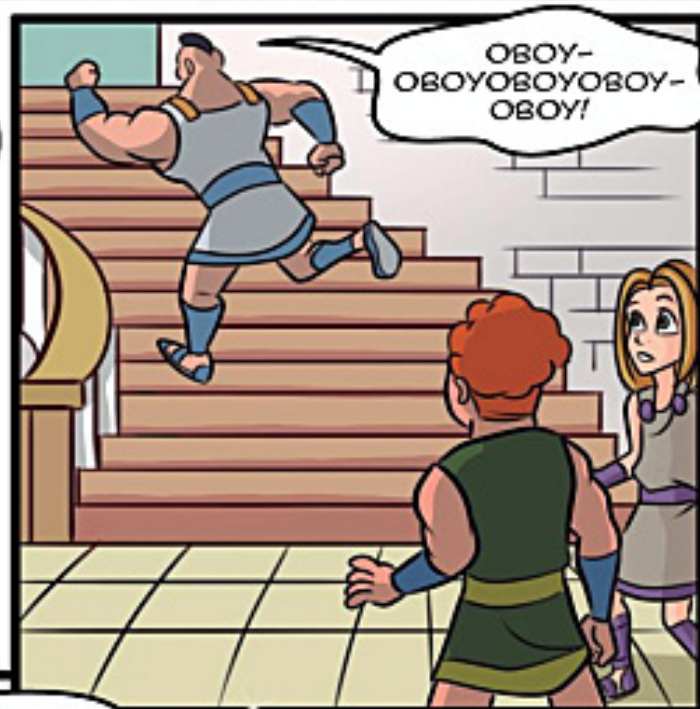
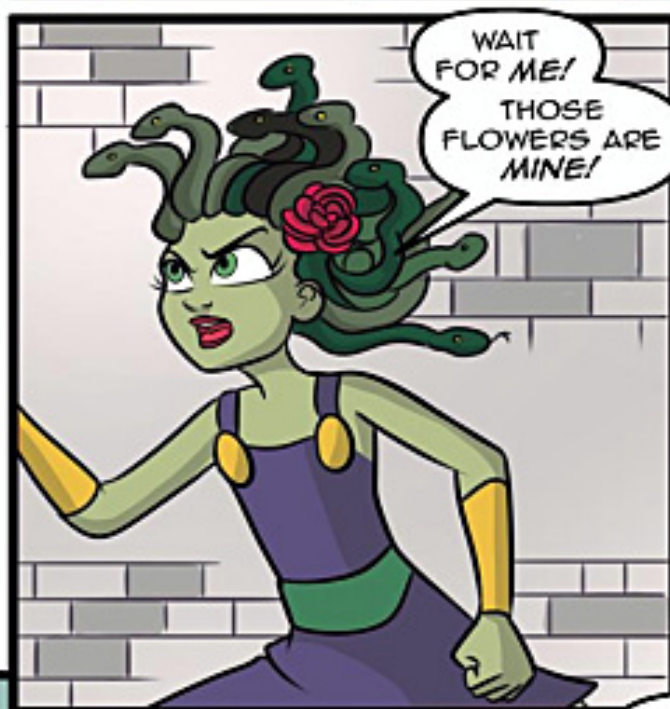
WHINE WHINE

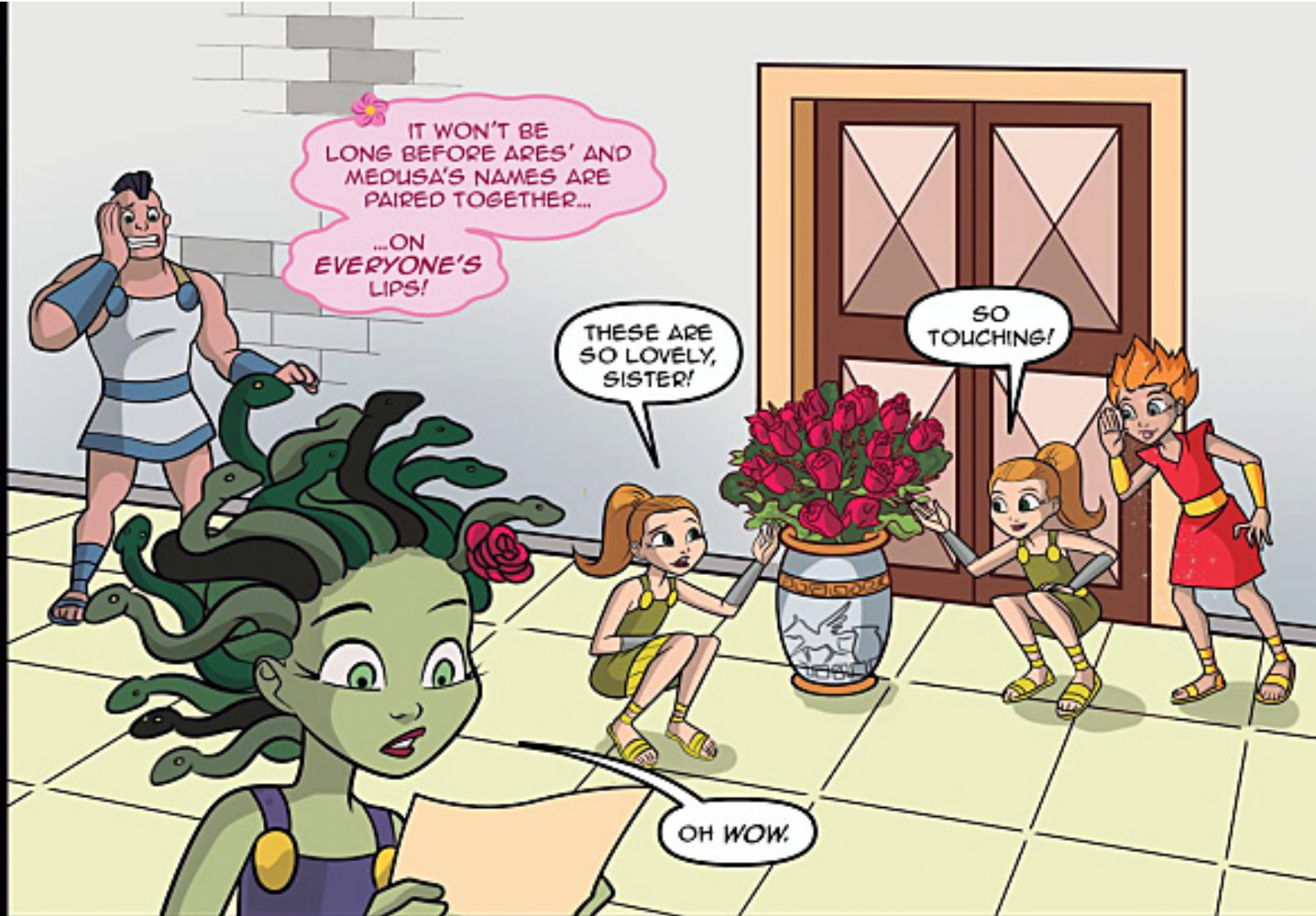
WHINE





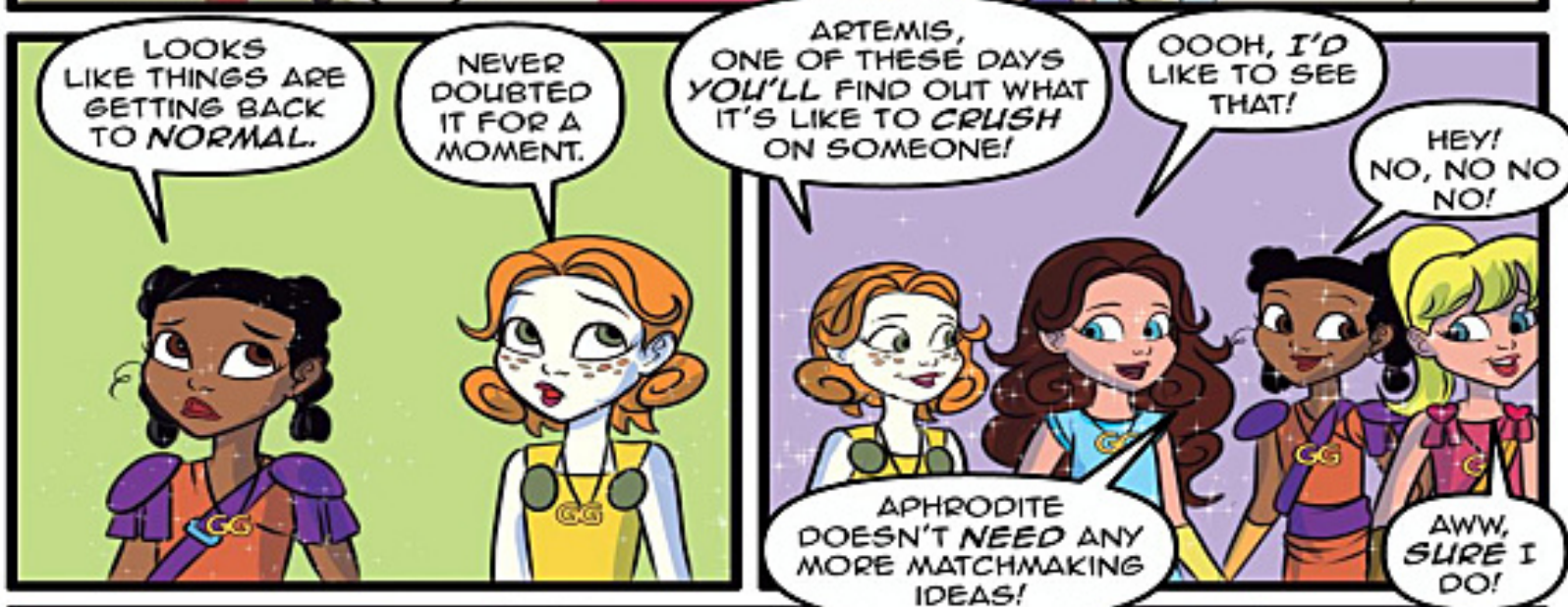












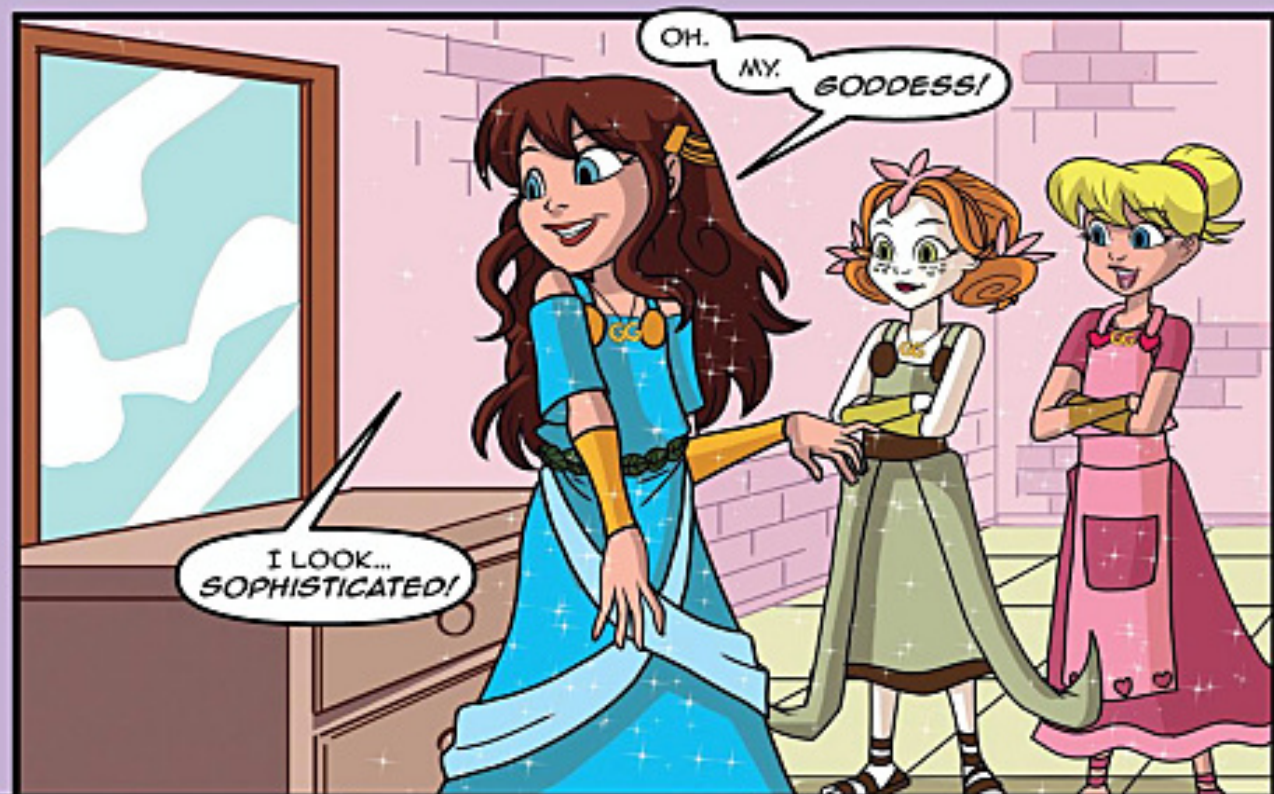




LIKE
I SAID...

...LOOKS LIKE
THINGS ARE BACK
TO NORMAL!

AND I
WOULDN'T HAVE
IT ANY OTHER
WAY!



DON'T MISS THE
OTHER ADVENTURES
IN THE GODDESS GIRLS
GRAPHIC NOVEL
SERIES!

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